REYNOLDS RAPS

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Your essential daily news | WEEKEND, JULY 10-12, 2015 High 27°C/Low 16°C Hot

GAMES ON!

De Grasse and others to watch at Pan Am

New program aims to make festivals safer

SOUNDCHECK

Training provides volunteers with tactics to prevent sexual assault

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

A new program called SoundCheck, launched at Escapade Music Festival and RBC Bluesfest this year, is trying to make music festivals in the city safer by training volunteers to prevent sexual assault.

The program is a response to research released last year by Dr. Kari Sampsel at the Ottawa Hospital, which found more sexual assaults are reported after large community gatherings.

Project lead Kira-Lynn Ferderber is in charge of training volunteers in bystander invention.

"We tell people what to look out for and what to do if they see something that makes them uncomfortable," she said.

That training doesn't include confronting people outright or making accusations. Instead, Ferderber instructs volunteers to pay attention and "check in" if they have concerns.

They might approach someone that looks uncomfortable and strike up a conversation, asking how the festival has been for them or if they have friends around.

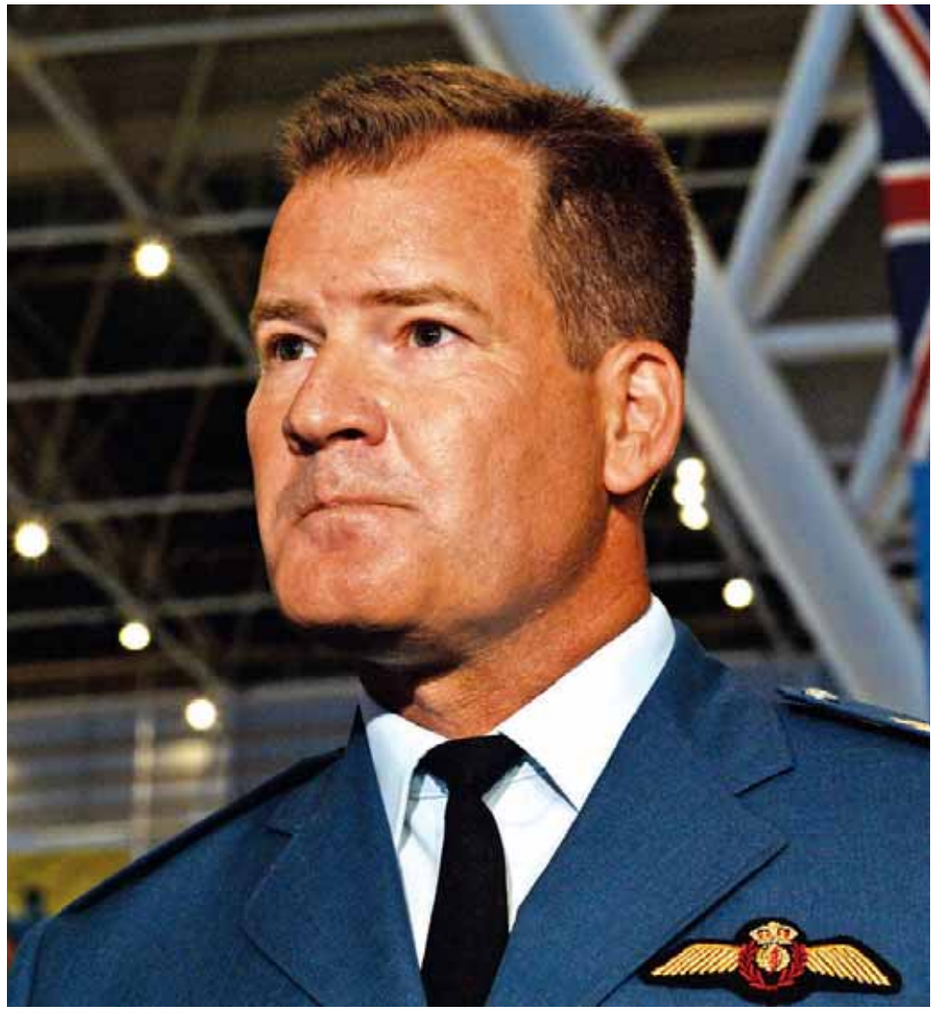
If something is actually going on, that gives a potential victim a chance to ask for help and it lets a predator know that people are paying attention. And if everything is OK, it doesn't end in an embarrassing misunderstanding or hurt feelings — two things that might prevent bystanders from acting.

"As we train more festivals, I think more people are going to come on board," said Ferderber. "Festival organizers are just like everyone else: They're running a business and they want everyone to be safe and having a good time."

So far, Bluesfest, City Folk Fest, Escapade and Kanata's Canada Day festivities have all signed up for volunteer and staff training.

> **"Festival organizers are just like everyone else: They're running a business and they want everyone to be safe and having a good time.** Kira-Lynn Ferderber

"For this phase, we are trying to hone in on music festivals, but we're also recognizing that where there is large gatherings, like Canada Day, that this could be used there as well," said Stefanie Lomatski of the Sexual Assault Network, which developed the program with the Ottawa Coalition to End Violence Against Women and funding from Crime Prevention Ottawa.



ARMED FORCES

EARNING HIS WINGS

Lt.-Gen. M.J. Hood talks to media after a Change of Command ceremony in Ottawa on Thursday, as Hood assumed his new role as head of the Royal Canadian Air Force. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Controversial flag loses its battle. **World**

NORTHERN LIGHTS

New sound and light show debuts

There's a new Parliament Hill sound and light show this summer, and it's twice as bright and twice as loud as ever.

Northern Lights, which debuts Friday night, replaces Mozaika, the popular show that had a five-summer run.

For 30 minutes every night until mid-September, the new show will transform Centre Block into a giant projection screen showing various aspects of Canadian history.

The show, which took two years to design and cost $4.5 million including development and equipment costs, is slated to run for five summers, ending in 2019.

At a media tour of the technology behind the show Thursday, officials stressed the upgrades that place Northern Lights a cut above its predecessor.

There are 17 projectors, up from nine for the previous show. The sound system has been upgraded, with 18 speakers set up in eight different locations around the site. The show uses more than 150 lights, some of which produce billions of different hues.

And for the first time, the show uses a colour laser to make transitions punchier and add depth.

The nerve centre of the show is a hidden-away control room in a bunker, where 20 different pieces of software run on several computers. The show requires 10 different video servers and is run by an intricate system that uses 150 kilometres of cable.

Another new addition this year is "The Cube" right near the centennial flame, which has large screens with interactive games for children and information for adults.

The start of the show focuses on the 1916 Parliament Hill fire, which destroyed all of Centre Block except for the Library of Parliament.

Nathalie Gélinas, vice-president and producer at Idées au Cube, the Montreal-based audio-visual production firm that put the show together, said she was struck by the idea that only the library survived the blaze.

> **History is quite cold at times, so how can we add emotion?**
> Nathalie Gélinas

"One thing that struck me is the fact that the first Parliament was completely destroyed and only the library survived.

"It's something interesting from an artistic perspective, to think that the memory of Canada was preserved back then," she added. "Fire is something that's shocking, so that's the way the show starts."

The show is then divided into five "books": Foundations of the Nation, Strength in Partnership, Discovery and Adventure, Valour, and Pride and Vision.

Northern Lights is the sixth edition of the Parliament Hill sound and light show, which has been running since 1984.

MICHAEL WOODS/METRO

Everything is awesome on Lego Parliament Hill

POLITICS

Federal leaders reimagined as popular toys

Michael Woods
Metro | Ottawa

If you've ever wanted a miniature version of a political party leader to keep on your desk, here's some good news: Canada's federal party leaders have been Lego-ized.

For a mere $60, you can buy a strikingly detailed Lego version of Prime Minister Stephen Harper, NDP Leader Tom Mulcair, Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau and Green Party Leader Elizabeth May.

The figures are the brainchild of David MacDonald, a 31-year-old Nova Scotia high school teacher with a long-standing passion for politics and Lego.

"The joke always was that Stephen Harper's hair looked like Lego hair, and that's kind of where it comes from," said the resident of Lyons Brook, N.S.

MacDonald designs custom Lego curling sets, and he thought it would be fun to create some politics-related ones. He designed them using Lego's digital design program, and then bought the pieces from a third party (Bricklink, "kind of like EBay but for Lego").

"I thought initially it might just be neat for a campaigner's desk or office," he said. "They actually look like the leaders."

They do bear some resemblance. The Mulcair figure, for example, has a beard, Trudeau has wavy hair and May has glasses.

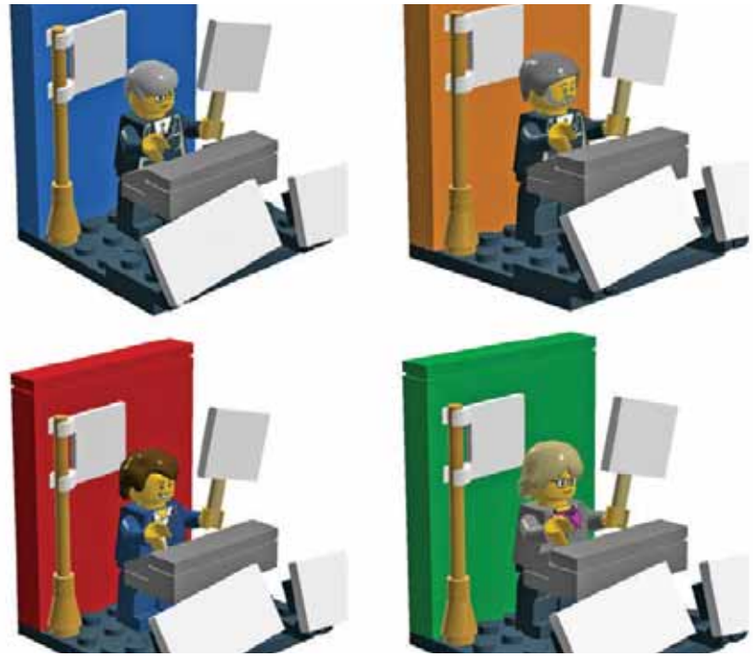
MacDonald also does sticker work and graphic design, so the 33-piece sets include several pre-applied stickers such as stump speech party wallpaper, a campaign slogan on the podium, and three different lawn sign designs.

The goal is to make them look "as realistic as possible."

MacDonald's hobbies extend beyond Lego; he has run electionalmanac.com, an election coverage website, since January 2004.

How are the Lego leader sales going? Not great so far; no one has bought one yet. But that doesn't bother MacDonald at all.

"It doesn't matter to me whether I have any orders or anything like that," he said. "It's more just for fun."



Four federal party leaders — Stephen Harper, Tom Mulcair, Elizabeth May and Justin Trudeau — have been Lego-ized. ETSY.COM

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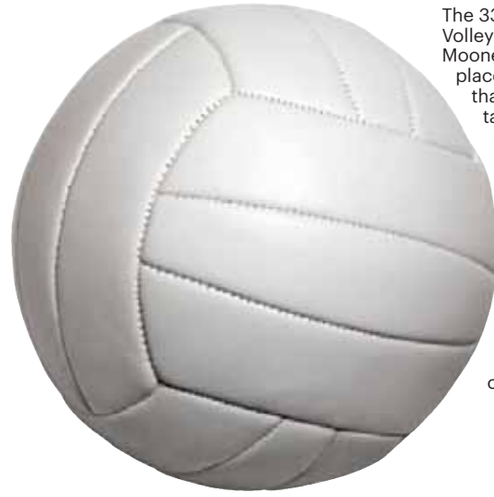
5 THINGS TO DO IN OTTAWA THIS WEEKEND

Summer has finally arrived in the capital and Environment Canada is predicting a sunny and hot weekend, with highs of 30C on both days and a small chance of rain Sunday night. Bluesfest is the main attraction this weekend, but there's plenty of other things to do to keep cool and have fun. Here are a few ideas. **LUCY SCHOLEY** METRO

1 Hail summer! with Caesars

The first ever Capital Caesar Competition will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Lowerton Brewery at 73 York St. Caesar-crafters from six different Ottawa businesses, including town., North & Navy, Lowertown Brewery, Das Lokal, Murray Street and Erling's Variety, will compete for Judge's Choice and People's Choice awards.

The event will be sponsored by Walter All-Natural Craft Caesar Mix and North of 7 Distillery, and tasting sizes and full drinks will be available.



2 Dig the Hope

The 33rd annual Hope Volleyball SummerFest at Mooney's Bay Beach takes place Saturday. More than 10,000 players will take to the sand at 7 a.m. for a full day of beach volleyball. Headliners this year are July Talk and the Sam Roberts band, and tickets are $20 at the gate.

Money raised from the event goes to numerous participating charities.

3 Roll on over to City Hall

If you've ever wanted to give the sport of roller derby a try, you can meet the Rideau Valley Roller Girls in front of City Hall Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m. in Marion Dewar Plaza.

We assume Mayor Jim Watson, after his snowmobile incident, will be sitting this one out. But there's plenty of other activities coming to City Hall over the summer, such as salsa, yoga, a circus performance, competitive walking, volleyball, an indigenous walking tour and tai chi.

4 Kanye Blues

Kanye West will take the Bluesfest main stage at 9:30 p.m. Friday, but the music continues all weekend. Other headliners include Iggy Azalea (Saturday at 9:30 p.m.) Ceelo Green (Sunday at 8 p.m.) and Blue Rodeo (Sunday at 9:30 p.m.)

RBC Bluesfest performances continue until July 19.

5 Get Medieval

Long before volleyball, roller derby and the Caesar were invented, people were entertaining themselves with falconry, sword fighting and wagon rides. Travel back in time this weekend and visit The Kingdom of Osgoode in southern Ottawa for Ottawa's Medieval Festival.

There's lots going on, including highland dancing, a trebuchet, knight tournaments, magic and a medieval dinner party.

A weekend adult pass is $15, children are also welcome. A shuttle bush will travel back and forth between Greenboro station and Osgoode.

Marc Andre Way, COO of Coventry Connections in Ottawa, has been named president of the Canadian Taxi Association.
CONTRIBUTED

CTA faces challenges

TRANSPORTATION

Cab exec named president of Canadian Taxi Association

Lucy Scholey
Metro | Ottawa

Marc Andre Way paid his way through university in a cab.

He started picking up passengers at age 17 and has since handled almost every part of the operation — serving fuel, dispatching and, more recently, managing taxi fleets with Coventry Connections in Ottawa.

On Thursday, the 47-year-old put on a new hat as president of the Canadian Taxi Association (CTA), which represents independent cab operators across the country.

But with Uber in Canada and other U.S.-based ride-hailing apps like Lyft eyeing cities north of the border, the cab industry looks different than when Way first sat behind the wheel almost 30 years ago.

The CTA first formed in the 1990s, but it was "more of an exchanging-of-ideas type of group," said Way. It's partly still that. But Way also plans to work with Canadian cities "to ensure that the regulations and the key rules that we live by don't get eroded to the point where it gets to be the wild, wild west out there."

"The bar is set at a certain level and we all operate within that level," said Way.

"Wild west" is a term that both the mayors of Ottawa and Toronto have used to describe the cab industry since Uber set foot in the market. Both cities have cracked down on Uber drivers — Toronto unsuccessfully sought an injunction against the company — and both are planning reviews of their taxi regulations.

A recent article in The Atlantic suggests Uber may have forced cab companies in the U.S. to "step up their game." Way said that's not the case in Canada.

"Do we all realize that we have things to change because of technology and customer expectations? Absolutely," he said. "But it has nothing to do with an illegal operator coming to some of our cities."

Uber officials have maintained their service is a ride-hailing app and not a taxi company.

"We believe that Canadians deserve safe, reliable and affordable rides in their cities and that taxi and ride-sharing can complement each other to better serve rider and driver needs," said Uber spokeswoman Susie Heath in an email.

Uber is operating in Edmonton, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec City and Halifax, but was forced to close shop in Vancouver and Calgary. The company operates in 57 countries.

WITH FILES FROM TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

"Do we all realize that we have things to change because of technology and customer expectations? Absolutely."
Marc Andre Way

RIDE-SHARING

Uber turns to its app users to fight city

In what has been a bumpy week for Uber, the ride-hailing app is now rallying Ottawa riders to email Mayor Jim Watson and tell him what they like about the service.

On Wednesday, the company sent emails to Ottawa's Uber app users, asking for help. The next day, two of the company's drivers appeared in court on charges of operating taxi cabs without licences.

However, it was a win for Uber earlier this week when Toronto unsuccessfully tried to oust Uber from the city. An Ontario Superior Court judge ruled that Toronto could not slap an injunction on the international company because its taxi bylaws are too broad.

Despite this provincial decision, Watson has said the City of Ottawa will continue to fine the company's drivers. The city also agreed to spend $300,000 on a review of its taxi regulations, in the wake of new ride-sharing technologies.

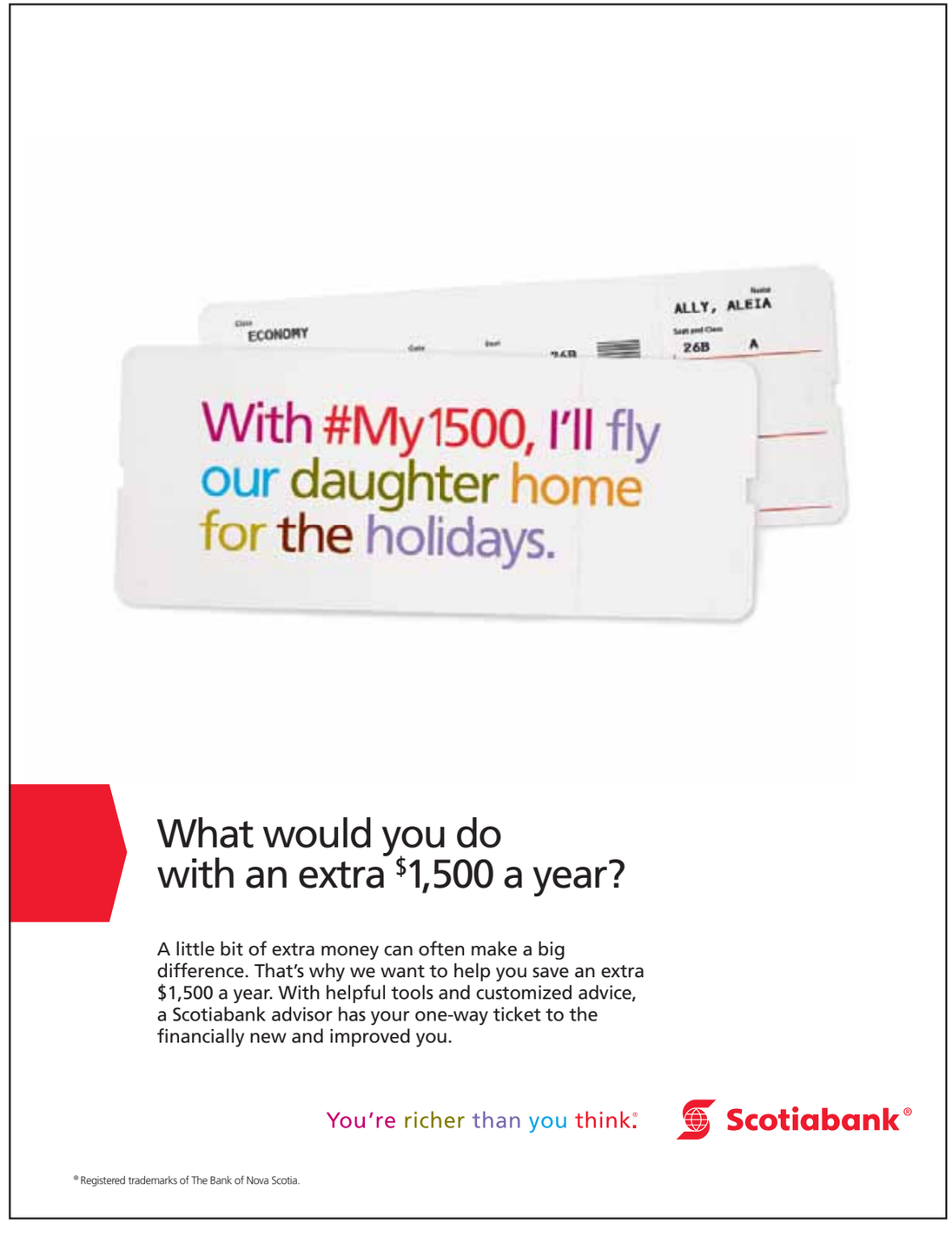
"Rather than taking further enforcement measures, we believe the right path forward is to develop common sense regulations that embrace ride-sharing and innovation," reads an email signed by Uber Ontario general manager Ian Black.

Uber launched its ride-sharing service, UberX, in Ottawa in October 2014. Users hail a driver — who picks up passengers in his or her own car — with the tap of an app.

The City of Ottawa has since laid 76 charges against 37 UberX drivers. So far, 31 drivers have pleaded guilty, with fines totalling more than $18,200.

According to the company, there are 1,000 Uber drivers in the city and the app generates "tens of millions of dollars in income" for them.

LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO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PRISON

Rating high-risk offenders

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

An Ottawa researcher is helping to put recommendations from the Ashley Smith inquiry into action with a new model aimed to limit the number of prisoners who end up in segregation.

As part of her research at Carleton University, Maaike Helmus worked with the Correctional Service of Canada to develop a screening tool to identify high-risk offenders.

"Any situation where you have limited resources you will get most effective change if you target your limited resources on those who need it most," said Helmus. "The problem is there had been no real research or scale developed to identify who was most likely to end up in segregation."

Helmus looked at administrative segregation, where prisoners are isolated either for their own safety or because they are at risk of "disturbing the prison environment."

The tool Helmus developed as part of her PhD in forensic psychology is based on two years of mathematical modelling. She found six items that indicate high risk: age, prior convictions, a violent past, previous segregation, sentence length and how many different crimes they had committed.

Based on those few indicators correctional services can identify high-risk offenders quickly without waiting months for an in-depth psychological evaluation.

"The scale can be scored within minutes with information that's already available on the day the inmate starts," she said. "You can find a group of offenders who have a 75 per cent chance of ending up in segregation, and that's obviously a group of inmates you're going to very concerned about and give them a lot of additional resources," said Helmus.

Screening inmates was a suggestion made to Correctional Service of Canada after 19-year-old Ashley Smith died in segregation at Grand Valley Institution for Women in 2007.

Not only does segregation cost two to three times more than regular prison, but it also has a serious impact on inmates, according to Ottawa human rights lawyer Paul Champ.

"The United Nations recommends inmates are not placed in segregation for more than 15 days, that's how seriously they view the risk. You're also not achieving your correctional objective, which is rehabilitation."

A bee pollinates flowers in a garden in Chelsea, Que. Scientists estimate that bees have lost 300 kilometres of range in Europe and North America since 1901.
ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bees' habitat shrinking in north and south alike

ENVIRONMENT

Bumble bees losing ground, climate change to blame

Climate change appears to be shrinking the range of bumble bees across the Northern hemisphere, depriving the natural environment and agricultural producers of a key pollinator, according to a massive new study.

Researchers from Canada, Belgium, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States used 110 years of scientific data to reveal that bumble bees are not migrating north like some other species as the climate warms, but are losing habitat in the south.

"Bumble bee species across Europe and North America are declining at continental scales and our data suggests climate change plays a critical role in this trend," biologist and lead author Jeremy Kerr of the University of Ottawa said at a briefing.

"The rates of loss are very rapid and are nearly the same across continents."

Bees are being crushed in a kind of "climate vice," said Kerr, the university's research chairman in macroecology and conservation, quickly losing the ability to survive on the southern edges of their ranges while being slow to move north.

> **Impacts are large and they are underway. They are not just something to worry about at some vague future time.**
> Jeremy Kerr, biologist at the University of Ottawa

The study geotagged 420,000 observations of 67 species of bumble bees from 1901 to 2010 and combined information with climate data, land-use data and pesticide-use records.

"This is big data," said ecologist Paul Galpern of the University of Calgary, adding the study's authors are making their data and computer code available to researchers around the world.

After establishing a baseline of bumble bee habitat from 1901 to 1974, the study observed significant changes as climate warming caused by human activity became evident.

The findings, published Thursday in the journal Science, suggest bumble bees are losing nine kilometres of their southern ranges per year and have lost about 300 kilometres of range to date — both in Europe and North America.

"Impacts are large and they are underway," said Kerr. "They are not just something to worry about at some vague future time."

The study's authors were surprised to find that bee ranges have not shifted north with warming temperatures, unlike many other species— a phenomenon they do not yet fully understand.

The study's authors propose immediate international consultations and further research on the possibility of "assisted migration" to move bumble bee species north.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TRANSIT

Mayor wants financial aid from Harper, Wynne for light rail

Lucy Scholey
Metro | Ottawa

Only a day after Ottawa city council approved the second phase of light rail transit, Mayor Jim Watson wasted no time in asking the provincial and federal governments for funding help.

Watson sent a letter each to Premier Kathleen Wynne and Prime Minister Stephen Harper, outlining the $3-billion railway project. He's expecting all three levels of government to pitch in on a third of the cost.

The mayor also noted two other LRT extensions outside of that LRT envelope, which cost a total of $315 million: Trim Road and the airport link.

"The City of Ottawa has been delighted to see that the federal and provincial governments have established significant infrastructure funds in their recent budgets," the letter reads.

"We have also watched with great interest as both levels of government have committed to funding transit projects in other municipalities like Toronto."

222-TIPS

Deadly collision

Ottawa police say an 18-year-old woman is dead after being struck by an SUV on Riverside Drive Wednesday evening.

Paramedics say the woman had no vital signs when they arrived and was pronounced dead at the scene of the collision, which happened at approximately 10 p.m. near the intersection of Riverside Drive and Heron Road.

They say she suffered multi-system trauma and a critical head injury. Her identity has not been released by police.

The 59-year-old driver of the SUV was not injured.

Ottawa Police are asking anyone with information or who may have witnessed this collision to contact the Collision Investigation Unit with the Ottawa Police Service at 613-236-1222 Ext. 2481 or Crime Stoppers at 613-222-8477 (TIPS).

JOE LOFARO/METRO

Skratch Bastid and crew in town for beats and burgers

EVENT

Get your freak on in full daylight with DJs' BBQ tour

Even though sunshine can be "a ginger's worst enemy," it won't stop Paul Murphy from throwing arguably the best outdoor dance party you've ever been to.

Armed with a busload of his buds, not to mention a handful of top selectors from across the country, the Halifax-born DJ better known as Skratch Bastid is rolling into town with his mobile DJ truck on his Bastid's BBQ tour July 11.

Think burgers, beats and big-name DJs — all at TD Place for the park's first-ever DJ show.

And these guys will be throwing everything under the sun: funk, old-school hip hop and summery vibes.

"DJs are always inspired by their surroundings and what they have in front of them, so if you have got a nice sunny day, you're going to be playing different music," says Murphy.

"For me, it's a chance to play stuff that just suits the environment. Happy funk and good positive vibes, hip hop, soul. Whatever fits."

And they'll be grilling up burgers, hot dogs, corn and other barbecue staples.

Playing an outdoor afternoon show takes the pressure off of mounting a huge, sweaty dance floor. The focus is more on the music, the vibe and having conversations with friends. Murphy says while dark sweaty nightclubs are fun, it's nice to break it up, especially for fans with families or real jobs who can't make it out to clubs on a regular basis.

"It's a day party and a lot of these DJs you get to see them in nightclubs, but the barbecue is a chance to see them in a day environment and hear them play different stuff."

"It's about making people happy. So, what makes people happy? Food, music and friends."

The Canadian scratch master, who has brought his sounds all around the globe, isn't showing up alone. He's got a handful of DJs he's picked to come along for the ride, including the Green Lantern, Thugli and local DJs Bear Witness, DJ Magnificent, Acro and Iggy Smalls. They'll be cooking up a spicy afternoon dance floor for everyone to chew on — likely the only Ottawa dance floor where revellers will be double fisting burgers, not beers.

Don't expect to hear club anthems at this party. These DJs will be throwing down tunes you'll recognize even if you're a dad of two, pushing age 40. Think Jackson 5, James Brown, Jurassic 5, Kris Kross — tunes that will make you go, "I remember wearing my pants backwards in Grade 6."

Tickets are $20 at the door and beats start at 4 p.m.

TREVOR GREENWAY/FOR METRO

Skratch Bastid rolls into Ottawa July 11 for his Bastid's BBQ tour. CONTRIBUTED

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Former U.S. vice-president Al Gore speaks at the Climate Summit of the Americas. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

GDPs fine without CO2s

CLIMATE CHANGE

Calderon, Gore say going green can bring the green, too

Former U.S. vice-president Al Gore and former Mexican president Felipe Calderon say fighting climate change will be a boon to the global economy, despite critics' fears that abandoning fossil fuels will cripple world markets.

On the final day of the Climate Summit of the Americas in Toronto, both tried to dispel the notion that society must choose between economic growth and helping the environment.

"We're seeing in some of the states and provinces reductions in (carbon dioxide) emissions accompanied by economic growth surging," Gore told a crowd of invitation-only delegates.

"Places like B.C., California, Quebec and Ontario."

Calderon, now chair of the Global Commission on the Economy and Climate, echoed Gore's thoughts, saying his organization's research shows economies can grow while reducing greenhouse gas output.

"Sweden increased more than 50 per cent its economic growth and reduced almost 25 per cent its carbon emissions related to 1990," he said. "For the first time in 40 years at the global level, the GDP of the world increased almost 3 per cent and the emissions didn't grow — in other words we started to decarbonize the economic growth."

Calderon said societies need to fundamentally change their systems, from getting away from fossil fuels, to ending deforestation, to building better cities and retrofitting aging infrastructure. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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HAMILTON, ONT.

Dog attack did not cause man's death

Neighbours heard piercing screams and loud barks as a man was attacked by a dog before he died on a residential street Wednesday night, but an autopsy has revealed the canine assault isn't what killed him.

What was responsible for the unidentified man's death remained a mystery Thursday, with shaken area residents trying to piece together what happened.

Police emphasized, however, that the animal had attacked.

"There was absolutely a dog attack, absolutely. We're confirming that. We're also confirming that that was not the cause of death," Hamilton police spokeswoman Catherine Martin said.

The man was out walking the dog with another man just after 11 p.m. when the incident took place.

A passerby with a baseball bat tried to fend off the animal, and police responding to a flurry of neighbours' 911 calls found the man on the ground. Officers used pepper spray to deter the dog before it was eventually captured with the help of an animal control unit, police said.

Afterwards an autopsy determined the dog attack was not what caused the man's death.

"There's no credible evidence that a dog attack was material in the death process here," said Dr. Jack Stanborough, regional supervising coroner for the Hamilton region.

"My understanding is there was a dog attack. Now whether that was before the death or after the death or during the process I can't tell you ... but I don't see a significant role for the dog attack causing the death."

The man did appear to be injured in the attack, he added, but those injuries were "not material" in his death.

> **I don't see a significant role for the dog attack causing the death.**
> Dr. Jack Stanborough

Figuring out just what killed the man will likely take months, Stanborough said, as further testing has to be conducted.

The dog has been identified as a sharpei-fila mix and is now being held by Hamilton's Animal Services department.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Canadians hit few targets in Syria as bombing against ISIL continues

The Canadian military reported 18 new air strikes against targets belonging to ISIL, but none in the latest round involve missions over Syria.

In the three months since Parliament granted an expansion of the air campaign only three attacks have been conducted against what the Harper government sometimes described as the heart of the extremist movement.

The U.S.-led coalition has stepped up both the level of bombing and the public relations campaign since ISIL forces dealt a surprise blow to the Iraqi government and seized control of the strategically important city of Ramadi.

Canadian Navy Capt. Paul Forget says it's clear the tempo of CF-18 missions has increased along with its allies, but he offered no explanation for the dearth of Syrian missions.

He did say the Canadian air taskforce takes its target lists from the coalition headquarters in Qatar.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadian Forces troops fight a new enemy: Fire

SASKATCHEWAN

200 soldiers endure smoke, ash, 30 C heat to save homes

Military personnel set out to fight fires in La Ronge, Sask., Wednesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS/CONTRIBUTED

"Watch out for the widowmakers!"

The platoon commander shouts the warning to about 200 soldiers slogging their way through dense brush, blackened trees and smouldering ash in the tiny First Nations community of Montreal Lake, about 250 kilometres north of Saskatoon.

A widowmaker is any large branch or treetop no longer attached to a trunk, but still tangled overhead, that could fall at any time.

"Obviously there's the danger of the ash pits and the big concern right now is the burned-out trees — any widowmakers," says Master Cpl. Casey Zaharoff. "And obviously a flare-up."

Zaharoff is one of the hundreds of Canadian Forces personnel who have traded their camouflage duds for bright orange fire-fighting jumpsuits to help beat back the flames in an unprecedented forest fire season. For soldiers in northern Saskatchewan, orange is the new green.

A handful of homes and cabins in the area have already been destroyed by fires. The army was called in this week to help save the rest and get 10,000 people who have fled the smoke and flames back home.

The help is sorely needed.

Crews were holding protective lines around threatened communities Thursday, but Steve Roberts with Saskatchewan Wildfire Management said warm, dry conditions and shifting winds could cause more trouble spots.

The narrow dirt road into Montreal Lake is flanked by burned trees, many of them still smoking.

The community is deserted. Several stray dogs follow the soldiers.

It's dry, smoky, hot work. The temperature was forecast to top 30 C on Thursday.

The soldiers push through the bush in long lines and climb over downed trees to get to ones that are still smoking or to hot spots on the ground.

There is nothing high-tech in what they are doing: Their main tools are shovels, axes and handheld water sprayers fed by plastic bladders on their backs.

It's challenging, says commanding officer Lt.-Col. Mason Stalker.

"Certainly fatigue and, of course, the heat are some of the threats that our soldiers deal with," he said. "Of course they're wearing protective equipment, goggles, hard hats, coveralls and gloves."

Stalker said there are about 200 soldiers in Montreal Lake and another group about the same size in La Ronge, the largest community under threat. He expects another 60 reservists from Saskatchewan will join the fight on the weekend.

> **"It's tough to see the homes destroyed and the damage the fire is causing and it's great we're doing something to help put them out.**
> Afghanistan veteran Cpl. Donny Melsted

Roberts said the province is looking for more firefighters and equipment from across the country and the United States. It is also working to train hundreds of additional people to join the battle in the next few weeks.

Saskatchewan used to have a larger force of firefighters, but there hasn't been a bad wildfire season for years and some moved on to take jobs in the energy industry, Roberts said.

"Now we have a new group of individuals who would like to be signed up. We are going to do what we can to train these individuals and make sure that they can join our firefighting forces and put them to work on these fires."

The plan is to have around 400 fighters ready to relieve soldiers in the coming weeks. The government hopes to cut a few days from the usual five-day training course without sacrificing safety.

"The military's mission is to give us an opportunity to raise these resources," said Dwayne McKay of Saskatchewan Emergency Management.

Cpl. Donny Melsted, who served in Afghanistan in 2009, is happy to be of service.

"It's great to be able to help the people of Saskatchewan in their time of need," he said.

"It's tough to see the homes destroyed and the damage the fire is causing and it's great we're doing something to help put them out."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

FOREST FIRES

Smoke covers the West

Large wildfires raging across Canada have contributed to a smoky haze lingering above the Western U.S., causing spectacular red sunsets in places including Seattle and prompting air quality warnings in Vancouver, and many states.

Parts of British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan are ablaze. In Saskatchewan, more than 10,000 people have been forced from their homes, and the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre said more help from the U.S. and abroad could be necessary. Alberta said Wednesday it was bringing in 62 firefighters from Mexico to help battle 92 wildfires, including 33 listed as out of control.

British Columbia, with more than 180 fires, was bringing in crews from Australia.

Haze that lingered over parts of eastern Colorado for three days was dissipating Thursday. The smoky conditions had prompted a health warning for the Denver area, which was beset by gloomy skies that blocked mountain views.

The tiny particles of wildfire debris in the air pose a health risk for people with lung disease, older adults and children and anyone who exerts themselves outdoors, said Christopher Dann of Colorado's air pollution control division.

Joanne Todd of the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency said smoke from wildfires in B.C. has crossed into Washington state, but said it is high in the atmosphere and is "not affecting us at ground level."

Air quality advisories have also been issued in North and South Dakota.

Environment Canada continued to issue special air quality advisories for parts of B.C., Saskatchewan, Manitoba and northwest Ontario.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MILITARY SECRETS

Accused trade spy nears extradition

The United States has vaulted another hurdle in its bid to extradite a Chinese national living in British Columbia who is accused by the FBI of pilfering American military trade secrets.

Defence lawyer Greg DelBigio failed to convince B.C. Supreme Court Justice Bruce Greyell to adjourn Su Bin's extradition hearing until a slew of electronic documents confiscated after Su's arrest in 2014 could be translated.

The U.S. Justice Department has accused Su of masterminding a plot to swipe confidential information from several American defence contractors, including Boeing and Lockheed Martin, to pass along to the Chinese government.

DelBigio said a shortage of RCMP resources should prompt an indefinite postponement, but Greyell dismissed the application Wednesday saying Su failed to apply for disclosure earlier in the proceedings and that the accused would already be familiar with the contents of his seized devices.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Canada Post asks for 2016 postal rate hike

Canada Post is proposing to increase both domestic and international postage rates next year — a move it blames on a continuing decline in mail volumes. Domestic stamps bought in booklets, coils or sheets would increase by a nickel to 90 cents as of Jan. 11. U.S. stamps would increase to $1.25 from $1.20, and stamps for other international destinations would go to $2.60 from $2.50.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ANIMAL LIBERATION FRONT

Mink release upsets fur farmers

Fur farmers in southwestern Ontario are rattled after more than 8,000 mink were released during two recent break-ins.

Police said about 6,800 mink were let out of four sheds at RBR Fur Farms Inc. near the Town of St. Marys after a perimeter fence was cut open overnight Tuesday.

Rancher Kirk Rankin said other farmers from the seven facilities in Perth County that rear the small carnivores for their glossy fur are "wound up" because it is the second break-in since late May.

Rankin said many mink were recovered on Wednesday and Thursday, including several dead ones, but he won't know the numbers until he gets the animals back into pens.

"My family has been raising these mink for almost 80 years. We like the animal," he said.

"But these other people, if they don't like fur coats, that's fine, they don't have to buy a fur coat, they don't have to wear any fur, but they sure as hell don't have the right to come into our property and do the damage that they did."

The Animal Liberation Front claimed responsibility for an earlier incident at the neighbouring Glenwood Fur Farm that involved the release of about 1,600 mink.

Gary Hazlewood, the executive director of Canada Mink Breeders, said it's the first time he's seen two break-ins within the same year, let alone two in the same area.

In early June, Hazlewood's organization offered a $75,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of the people responsible. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rebel flag to come down

SOUTH CAROLINA

Governor passes new law three weeks after massacre

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley signed a bill into law Thursday that will bring down the Confederate flag outside the Statehouse, a move that seemed unthinkable only a month ago in this Deep South state that was the first to secede from the Union.

The law requires the battle flag to be gone within 24 hours; her staff said it would be removed during a ceremony at 10 a.m. Friday and relegated to the state's Confederate Relic Room.

"The Confederate flag is coming off the grounds of the South Carolina Statehouse," Haley said. "We will bring it down with dignity and we will make sure it is stored in its rightful place."

The flag first flew over the Statehouse dome in 1961 to mark the 100th anniversary of the Civil War and was kept there as a symbol of official opposition to the civil rights movement. Mass protests decades later led to a compromise in 2000 with lawmakers who insisted that the flag symbolized Southern heritage and state's rights.

They agreed then to move it to a 30-foot pole next to a Confederate monument out front. But even from that lower perch, the historic but divisive symbol remained clearly visible in the centre of town, and flag supporters remained a powerful bloc in the state.

The massacre three weeks ago of nine people inside their historic black church in Charleston suddenly changed this dynamic, not only in South Carolina but around the nation.

Police said the shootings inside the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church were racially motivated, and by posing with the Confederate flag before the shootings, suspect Dylann Storm Roof, who has not yet entered a plea to nine counts of murder, ignited a debate over the flag's history as a symbol of white superiority and racial oppression.

Haley moved first, calling on South Carolina lawmakers to vote the flag down, and very quickly thereafter, other Republican lawmakers who have long cultivated the votes of Confederate flag supporters were announcing that other Civil War symbols no longer deserve places of honour.

"These nine pens are going to the families of the Emanuel Nine," Haley said after signing the bill into law. "Nine amazing individuals who have forever changed South Carolina history."

South Carolina's flag removal bill passed easily in the Senate, where state Sen. Clementa Pinckney, the pastor gunned down at the church, had served, but was stalled by debate in the House as dozens of amendments were proposed. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Maria Calef, of Columbia, S.C., waves a sign as she celebrates in front of the South Carolina statehouse on Thursday. More than 50 years after a Confederate flag was raised at its Statehouse, the rebel banner is scheduled to be removed Friday. JOHN BAZEMORE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AVIATION

Pilot wrong to flush bullets, says United

A United Airlines captain threw bullets in a trash bin accessible to passengers and later flushed them down a toilet on board a flight that he was piloting to Germany.

A United spokeswoman said Thursday that the pilot should not have thrown the bullets in the toilet. She said the pilot hasn't been fired but that the incident is still under investigation.

Airline spokeswoman Karen May said the pilot is allowed to carry a gun on domestic flights under a post-9-11 federal program intended to make planes harder to hijack. She said the pilot dumped the bullets in a waste bin then in a toilet after realizing he had them in his bag on a June 23 flight from Houston to Munich. Germany has strict gun laws.

"He did incorrectly dispose of the ammunition," May said, "but it is likely that the pilot is not going to face any criminal charges."

The Transportation Security Administration and Federal Aviation Administration did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

United declined to name the pilot. He is likely to be very experienced — it takes many years of seniority for pilots to become captains on international flights for major U.S. airlines.

> **He did incorrectly dispose of the ammunition.**
> Spokeswoman Karen May

May said the pilot was still employed by United, but she declined to say whether he had been grounded.

"We are investigating," she said. "I can't give any details about his status other than he is still with us."

The incident was first reported by The Aviation Herald, which said that a flight attendant looking for a passenger's missing ring found 10 bullets in a waste bin and alerted the captain. He flushed the bullets down the toilet and alerted German authorities when he realized that the flight attendant would report the incident, according to the Herald.

After landing in Munich, the plane taxied to a remote area where passengers got off and the waste tanks were emptied to find the bullets.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BRITAIN A ROYAL CHRISTENING Prince William and his wife Kate, Duchess of Cambridge, marked a milestone for their newborn baby Princess Charlotte on Sunday — a christening ceremony on Queen Elizabeth II's country estate that was steeped in royal tradition. Hundreds of fans outside St. Mary Magdalene Church in Sandringham, a sprawling royal estate near England's eastern coast, cheered as William and Kate arrived with toddler Prince George and nine-week-old Charlotte, who was in a vintage pram.

MARIO TESTINO/KENSINGTON PALACE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

REFORM

Greece meets deadline

Greece finally met a deadline that counted on Thursday and made a series of sweeping proposals that its creditors needed by midnight to set off a mad rush toward a weekend deal to stave off a financial collapse of the nation.

The package met long-standing demands by creditors to impose wide-ranging sales-tax hikes and cuts in state spending for pensions that the left-leaning Greek government had long resisted.

It raised hopes that Greece can get the rescue deal that will prevent a catastrophic exit from the euro after key creditors said they were open to discussing how to ease the country's debt load, a long-time sticking point in their talks.

The government conceded to demands it had previously refused to accept — mostly on moving various categories of goods and services to higher sales tax rates.

After months of foot-dragging despite impending chaos, Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras met a midnight deadline with more than an hour to spare.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Funeral set for girl killed by leaping sturgeon

Funeral plans are set for a five-year-old Florida girl who died after being struck by a sturgeon that leaped into the boat she was riding in with her family.

Jaylon Leighann Rippy died last Friday, hours after the sturgeon jumped into the family's boat. Officials say the girl's mother suffered facial injuries and her nine-year-old brother suffered a broken wrist.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission says this was the first fatality recorded from a sturgeon strike on the Suwannee River in northern Florida.

The fish are known for leaping more than seven feet above the water. They can grow up to eight feet long and weigh up to 200 pounds.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Burglary suspect chased by authorities — and a bull

A bull decided to horn in on the action as authorities chased a suspect in northern Alabama. Sheriff's officials in Marshall County say the burglary suspect was taken into custody after being chased by a bull through a cow pasture.

Marshall County Sheriff Scott Walls says 26-year-old Brad Lynn Hemby was being sought in connection with a burglary Wednesday morning in Arab.

Walls says Hemby tried fleeing deputies by running through a cow pasture and a bull roaming the land joined the chase. Walls says Hemby eventually fell onto a barbed wire fence and surrendered.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vet finds underwear inside dog during surgery

A U.S. Labrador has some unusual taste buds.

A Pennsylvania veterinarian retrieved 62 hair bands and eight pairs of underwear from the dog's stomach during exploratory surgery.

The head technician at Good Shepherd's Veterinary Hospital told a local TV station that the black Lab named Tiki wasn't responding to medicine for vomiting, diarrhea and a loss of appetite. X-rays showed a mass in its stomach. Last week's surgery lasted two hours.

The dog's owner, Sara Weiss, says Tiki once swallowed a plastic foam dart, but that passed through the dog's system naturally.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tech evolving past humans

INNOVATION

Advanced networks too 'unmanageable' for our brains

Technology has become so indispensable that when it breaks down, people's lives go haywire, too.

Computer outages at United Airlines, the New York Stock Exchange and The Wall Street Journal on Wednesday delivered a reminder about our growing dependence on interconnected networks to get through each day.

For the most part, technology has worked smoothly while hatching innovations and conveniences that have made our lives easier and our jobs more productive. Computers, though, could bring more frequent headaches as they link together with billions of other electronic devices and household appliances — a phenomenon that has become known as the "Internet of things."

This technological daisy chain will increase the complexity of the systems and raise the risks of massive breakdowns, either through an inadvertent glitch or a malicious attack.

DEPARTING TO
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AIRLINE
GATE
SCHEDULED
REMARK
Houston-IAH 825 UNITED A9 9:30A
Houston-IAH 1902 UNITED A6 11:15A
Chicago O'Hare 1687 UNITED A9 11:17A
Wash.-IAD 1581 UNITED A9 1:52P
Newark 740 UNITED A6 3:03P On Time
Houston-IAH 1848 UNITED A8 3:43P On Time
Chicago O'Hare 1790 UNITED A4 4:29P On Time
Houston-IAH 1810 UNITED A8 8:59P On Time
Wash.-IAD 1581 UNITED A9 On Time
Newark 720 UNITED A6 On Time
10:14 AM

Passengers check into the United Airlines ticket counter at Tampa International Airport on Wednesday, a day in which the airline's network went down. Meanwhile, across the U.S. the Wall Street Journal and New York Stock Exchange both experienced system errors that caused their operations to cease for part of the day. JAMES BORCHUCK/THE TAMPA BAY TIMES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"The problem is humans can't keep up with all the technology they have created," said Avivah Litan, an analyst at Gartner. "It's becoming unmanageable by the human brain. Our best hope may be that computers eventually will become smart enough to maintain themselves."

> **Humans can't keep up with all of the technology they have created.**
> Avivah Litan, Gartner analyst

Technology already is controlling critical systems such as airline routes, electricity grids, financial markets, military weapons, commuter trains, traffic lights and our lines of communications.

Now, computers are taking other aspects of our lives as we depend on smartphones to wake us up in the morning before an app turns on the coffee pot in the kitchen for a caffeine fix that can be enjoyed in the comfort of a home kept at an ideal temperature by an Internet-connected thermostat designed to learn the occupant's preferences.

Within the next few years, we may even be unlocking our doors with high-tech watches after being chauffeured home in robotic cars.

Technology's relentless march demands better security measures to prevent hackers from breaking into systems and more rigid programming standards to reduce the chances of crippling outages, said Lillian Ablon, a technology researcher for the Rand Corp.

"Instead of just letting the technology rush ahead of us and then trying to catch up in terms of privacy and security, we should be baking those things into the systems from the start," she said. "We need to be a little smarter on how we are coding things."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUTO INDUSTRY

Google, carmakers competing to usher in the self-driving era

Two competing visions could determine how you first experience a driverless car.

Traditional automakers like Mercedes and Toyota already make vehicles equipped with systems that keep cars within their lanes, apply the brakes or park by themselves. Their plan is to gradually automate more functions of driving until, perhaps by 2025, some cars will be fully capable of driving themselves.

But Google, Alibaba, Baidu and other tech companies are aggressively working on their own self-driving vehicles, and could leapfrog the car industry in bringing them to market. Google, for instance, promises to deliver a self-driving car in five years.

Some experts predict that car companies will continue to make the cars consumers buy and park in their driveway, and eventually some will be driverless.

"One thing is clear. The next five to 10 years are going to be the most disruptive we've ever seen in the history of personal transportation," said analyst Karl Brauer of Kelley Blue Book.

But Google says a gradual approach to going driverless is wrong — and even dangerous.

"The prevailing philosophy is that we're going to take the driver assistance systems that are in the vehicle today and we're going to incrementally make those better and better, and eventually we'll get to this point where we have self-driving cars," Chris Urmson, the director of Google's self-driving car program, said in May at an event in Mountain View. "We fundamentally don't believe that's the case. We believe that's like saying, 'if I work really hard at jumping, one day I'll just be able to fly.'"

A computer screen shows what a Google self-driving car sees through the window of a car during an exhibition at the Computer History Museum in Mountain View, Calif. in May 2014. ERIC RISBERG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Google is currently testing a small fleet of self-driving cars with no steering wheel. It plans to drive the cars thousands of miles on California highways and back streets, teaching them all the tricks of driving.

Experts find Google's five-year time frame overly ambitious. There are legal and ethical issues to work through before driverless cars go mainstream. Google's cars also require extremely detailed mapping, which has only been done in limited areas.

The demand for autonomous capability is there. Forty-four per cent of U.S. car buyers say they would consider buying a self-driving car in the next decade, according to a recent survey of 1,500 consumers by the Boston Consulting Group.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Ikea to install electric vehicle charge stations

Ikea Canada aims to be the place to shop for drivers of battery-powered vehicles.

The home furnishings retailer says it is installing charging stations for electric vehicles at all 12 of its stores across Canada.

The company says it is partnering on the project with Sun Country Highway to install two 60-amp charging stations at each location. The rollout is set to be completed by late August, and will be available at no cost to customers on a first-come, first-served basis.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

market minute

DOLLAR 78.70¢ (+0.21¢)

TSX 14,278.49 (-133.58)

OIL $52.78 US (+$1.13)

GOLD $1,159.20 US (-$4.30)

NATURAL GAS: $2.726US (+4.1¢)
DOW JONES: 17,548.62 (+33.20)

metro

Ottawa Bluesfest

WEEKEND, July 10-12, 2015

GET WEIRD

INSIDE: Artist profiles, local blues programs, festival overview and much more!

Weird Al Yankovic, who has won four Grammy awards, will bring his blend of music and comedy to the RBC Ottawa Bluesfest July 19 on the Claridge Homes Stage. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE PHOTO

Kanye West takes the Bell Stage Friday. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Jim Cuddy and Blue Rodeo will play the Bell Stage Sunday at 9:15 p.m. DAVID LEYES PHOTO

Keith Urban plays July 16 on the Bell Stage. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Iggy Azalea will hit the Bell Stage Saturday. GETTY IMAGES

Rock with the John Butler Trio Tuesday. GETTY IMAGES

The fashion blues

INTERACTIVE

RBC Bluesfest Fashion to 'tease out the fashion threads'

Jen Traplin
For Metro

A sure sign of summer is upon us as the RBC Royal Bank Ottawa Bluesfest is back with a number of impressive acts making their way through town.

This year's headliners include Kanye West, Iggy Azalea, Blue Rodeo, Lynyrd Skynyrd, The Tragically Hip, Deep Purple, Paul Oakenfold, among many others.

The festival, however, offers so much more than just world-class performances — it boasts multicultural foods, a number of beverage options, VIP areas, autograph signings, raffles, silent auctions, and impressive green initiatives.

A new feature this year is RBC Bluesfest Fashion, where festival director Mark Monahan brought in Julie Beun to act as the festival's fashion director and build a campaign that would "tease out the fashion threads from the overall festival blanket."

The RBC Royal Bank Ottawa Bluesfest will feature two fashion tents this year. ALEXANDER VLAD PHOTO

"It's a multi-pronged, immersive and interactive campaign that will really tie in social media, music and fashion," Buen said.

"Essentially, we'll have a style squad on-site nearly every day, snapping photos of best-dressed music lovers, which will go to Bluesfest's Instagram and Twitter feeds."

There are also two RBC Bluesfest Fashion tents, where you can get free glitter tattoos, scent samples and makeup, as well as a merchandise tent offering original clothing designs from the RBC Bluesfest collection.

"Too many people say that Ottawa has no style — that's not true," Buen said. "Festival fashion is particularly ripe here, we just hear about Coachella and Osheaga and Bonnaroo more. I think it's time for Ottawa to put on her big girl pants and accept that we have our own thing going on here."

To participate in the initiative, use the hashtags #RBCBluesfestFashion and #FollowMeBackstage on social media. Phones, GoPros, iPads and selfie sticks are all allowed on the festival grounds. Smoking, however, isn't as Bluesfest is a non-smoking event.

For more information, visit ottawabluesfest.ca.

What's Inside

Still Takin' Care Of Business 50 years later
See page 15

Working on another Masterpiece
See page 17

MonkeyJunk unveiling new tunes at Bluesfest
See page 20

She's The One features best female artists
See page 22

Lurrie Bell always has the blues
See page 23

Afie Jurvanen, a.k.a. Bahamas, plays the Monster Energy Stage July 17 at 9:30 p.m. GETTY IMAGES PHOTO

Unmasking Bahamas

Jen Traplin
For Metro

Much has been written about the title of the latest album by Toronto-based artist Afie Jurvanen, a.k.a. Bahamas.

The record — Bahamas Is Afie — sees Jurvanen unmask his musical moniker, though he admits he still isn't sure what he was trying to accomplish with the title, joking most people still mispronounce his name (it's ay-fee, by the way).

"The whole thing started out as an art project and it continues to be one," he said. "It's nice to sort of acknowledge my name with my music. When you grow up with a weird name, you just kind of get used to it.

Bahamas Is Afie won the Juno Award this year for adult alternative album. Jurvanen also picked up another award for songwriter of the year. His previous two records, Pink Strat and Barchords, earned Juno nominations as well.

Despite the critical acclaim he has received, Jurvanen said his job hasn't become any easier or much different, for that matter.

"So much of my musical life just kind of seems the same — we just put the stuff in a van and we move it to another city. I'm not saying that as a complaint, I actually really love my job, but there's never been some sort of hit single that changed everything for me.

"A lot of my life seems just like it did five years ago — I'm still playing music with my friends, still cracking jokes all the time and I'm grateful that it's stayed the same, in a lot of ways."

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Bobby Bazini was one of the first acts to entertain fans at the Ottawa Bluesfest this year, performing Thursday night. CONTRIBUTED

BOBBY BAZINI

Charging ahead to chase his muse

Keith Carman
For Metro

"You need to get out of your comfort zone to really generate ideas."

Folk/soul singer-songwriter Bobby Bazini is an infectious soul.

Despite gracing the world for a mere quarter-century, spend but a quarter of an hour chatting with this Mont-Laurier, Que., native and you'll realize you need to do a lot more with your life ... let alone after acknowledging that both of his inimitable artists releases — 2010's Better In Time and 2014's Where I Belong (Universal Music Canada) — have achieved platinum status, international appeal, and a multitude of awards and praise.

Yet, none of that is about to stop Bazini from charging full steam ahead. Despite selling approximately 125,000 copies in its first 12 months, Where I Belong is the single bestselling Canadian album of 2014, and Bazini is already fired up for its successor.

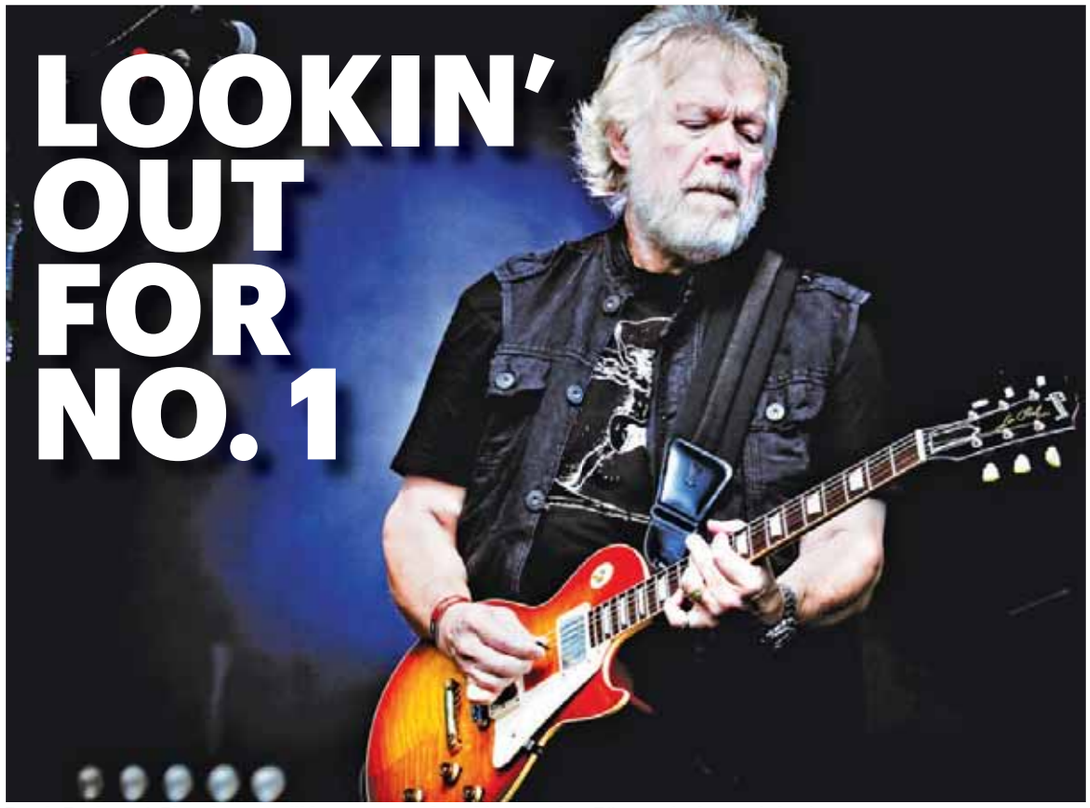
"I have a few songs tucked away for the next album that have been written all over the place. I've been to Nashville twice this year already, spent two weeks in L.A., two weeks in London ... plus a lot of what I've written on my own.

"I've got about 25 songs ... I had nothing else to do," he said with a wink, admitting his surprise at worldwide praise is seconded only by an unyielding desire to keep creating.

Yet, why the globe-trotting? While it might seemingly have something to do with touring (in part, yes, it does), the greater goal for Bazini's traipsing is merely to chase his muse.

"Travelling gives you something to write about," he said. "It gives me the opportunity to meet new people, make new friends and spread the word about who I am ... and, ultimately, it makes the song even more interesting and personal. It gives new life to the song and takes it even further. You miss home because you're away from it. You're having new experiences. You're hearing new things; seeing new things. You're ... living."

LOOKIN' OUT FOR NO. 1



Randy Bachman's Bluesfest set will feature songs from his more than 50 years in the music business. CONTRIBUTED

Randy Bachman advises young musicians to look after their health

Jen Traplin
For Metro

Often referred to as the architect of Canadian rock 'n' roll, Randy Bachman has enjoyed more than 50 years of musical success.

His group, The Guess Who, was the first Canadian band to hit No. 1 on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100 and Bachman (as well as bandmates Burton Cummings, Donnie McDougall, Garry Peterson and Bill Wallace) received the Governor General's Performing Arts Award, the highest honour in Canadian performing arts.

After leaving The Guess Who, Bachman went on to form Brave Belt, which evolved into Bachman-Turner Overdrive, a group that has sold more than 30 million albums worldwide. Both The Guess Who and BTO have been inducted into the Canadian Music Hall of Fame.

Today, Bachman credits much of his musical success to staying on the straight and narrow and advises any young performer about to embark on a musical career to stay straight as well.

"It's tough enough to be successful in any endeavour without burdening or slowly killing your brain, body, family and career with drugs, alcohol and smoke," he said. "Make yourself, your health, your family and career your priority and whether you're a big star or not won't matter, you'll be healthy and happy and that will eventually lead to success."

IN CONCERT

Randy Bachman
When: July 19 at 7 p.m.
Where: Bell Stage

With a career that has spanned more than five decades, Bachman has played witness to more than just the demise of popular musicians to drugs and alcohol — he has also experienced, first-hand, the myriad of dramatic changes in the industry. He says, by far, the one that has had the biggest impact on his career and others is music piracy.

"The theft of music impacts all songwriters and musicians worldwide. The 11th Commandment should be, 'Thou shalt not steal music.'

"The Canadian government can protect us and prevent the continual 'free usage' of music, but have chosen to favour the big Internet servers who facilitate the thievery, rather than control it and channel the income to the property owners and creators."

AIR SUPPLY

Enjoying the moment

Australian soft rockers Air Supply are celebrating the band's 40th anniversary, a milestone one-half of the duo, Russell Hitchcock, admits he could never have imagined all those years ago.

"Making our first recordings in Australia, nobody would have ever believed we'd be around for 40 years," he said. "We thought maybe four or five, so it's just great.

"We've had a great outpouring of support from fans all over the world. It is a very special occasion and we're just going to enjoy the moment."

At the heart of Air Supply's longevity is the close friendship between Hitchcock and bandmate Graham Russell. The pair met on the first day of rehearsals for Jesus Christ Superstar in Sydney, Australia, on May 12, 1975, and hit it off immediately. They have been best friends ever since.

Hitchcock believes a key to their success is the fact that he and Russell have very clearly defined roles within the band so they never step on each other's toes.

"I don't write songs, I sing them, and Graham doesn't want to be a singer, certainly. We just do our thing, we've never really questioned how we get along, we just get along. We've never even had a disagreement in all this time.

"I respect him tremendously. I love him like a brother. I support his musical vision for the band. There's just been no reason to disagree."

JEN TRAPLIN

IN CONCERT

Air Supply
When: July 18 at 7 p.m.
Where: Bell Stage

Air Supply is celebrating the band's 40th anniversary on a tour that will stop at Ottawa Bluesfest. CONTRIBUTED

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Playing the RBC Ottawa Bluesfest Thursday was a career highlight for Ottawa-born Kira Isabella. CONTRIBUTED

Running on her Big Dreams

Keith Carman
For Metro

"I'm very sentimental."

If country singer/songwriter Kira Isabella could wear her heart anywhere more prominent than her sleeve, she would certainly find a way.

As it stands though, the 21-year-old Ottawa-born chanteuse will have to suffice with where it currently lies. Well, that and boldly displaying it via her sophomore full-length effort Caffeine & Big Dreams (Sony). Named after one of the lyrics from track Coke Can, off the award-winning 2014 affair, Isabella's effusive demeanour clung to the words as if her very essence depended on it.

"The album is named after one line," she revealed. "It goes: 'We were running on caffeine and big dreams/I would've given you my life.' That line hit me so hard, it stuck with me, struck me at my core, it was so close to my heart. I had to name the album after it, but each song has its own moment like that. It's all very close to my heart."

Delving into deeper — and somewhat darker — territory with lead track Quarterback and its admittedly, "weighty issues of date rape and cyberbullying," Isabella said the duality of dealing with a culturally important scenario via captivating lyrics over a virulent rhythm resulted in both a hit tune and "an amazing result I didn't expect."

"The subject is tricky, but it comes across in such a beautiful way," Isabella said with a smile. "It's based in storytelling, which country music is about, but the words are perfect and the way the music is produced — well, a mother once came up to me and said she had two daughters who heard the song very differently.

"She loved that her older daughter can understand it, see it for what it really is. At the same time, though, her younger daughter thinks it's beautiful and loves singing along."

SEE 'EM LIVE AT BLUESFEST

Skrillex & Diplo
Skrillex & Diplo present Jack Ü

Features the mega hit 'Where Are Ü Now (with Justin Bieber).'
"Grab a few friends, turn it up, and get lost." – Consequence Of Sound

July 8 – 9:45pm
Bell Stage

Hoodie Allen
People Keep Talking

"Every single release tends to be better than it's predecessor, so would it be fair to assume that Allen's debut album is the best example of his work? Absolutely." – Absolutepunk.net

July 9 – 8:00pm
Claridge Homes Stage

Francesco Yates
"Better To Be Loved"

In case you missed him Canada Day performing his current hit 'Better To Be Loved' on Parliament Hill, here's another chance to catch him live. Meet Francesco at the merch tent after his performance!

July 11 – 5:00pm
Bell Stage

Scott Helman
Augusta

Acclaimed singer/songwriter's debut EP featuring his current singles 'Bungalow' and 'That Sweater.'
Meet Scott at the merch tent after his performance!

July 12 – 3:00pm
Bell Stage

Philip Sayce
Influence

"Clapton, Page, Hendrix...Philip Sayce. The young guitarist reviving blues-rock"– London Metro, UK.
Meet Philip at the merch tent after his performance!

July 12 – 7:00pm
Bell Stage

Blue Rodeo
Greatest Hits

Canada's summer festival faves return to Bluesfest. Summer hasn't officially begun until you've found yourself in a crowd singing 'Lost Together' under a sky full of stars.

July 12 – 9:15pm
Bell Stage

Cee Lo Green
The Lady Killer

The voice of Gnarls Barkley's 'Crazy', and solo mega hit 'F**k You'.
"...contemporary, confident, conception of soul music" – Pitchfork

July 12 – 8:00pm
Claridge Homes Stage

Simple Plan
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Multi-million selling, international chart topping Simple Plan hit the road with a brand-new single 'Saturday'.

July 18 – 8:00pm
Claridge Homes Stage

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Hard work has been paying off for Francesco Yates. CONTRIBUTED

FRANCESCO YATES

On a mission to make the moment

Steve Collins
For Metro

IN CONCERT

Francesco Yates
When: Saturday at 5 p.m.
Where: Bell Stage

At 19, Francesco Yates has already been planning his music career for years.

"I remember when I was very young, age 11. I've been on a mission ever since and I haven't waned yet in my enthusiasm for the music," said Yates, who is returning to Ottawa for the second time this month after his Canada Day appearance on Parliament Hill.

"It's going really good and I'm glad that it's starting to pick up. I'm a believer in the hard work paying off."

And that includes schoolwork, though his hectic schedule hasn't left much time for classes.

"I'm doing them by correspondence on the Internet. I take it whenever I can. Nowadays, it's getting really busy, but I try — I try as best I can."

Work is continuing on his upcoming album ("I'm just not sure of what the name is yet. It hasn't been sent to me from the higher power") and a self-titled EP comes out Aug. 21, featuring his hits Call and Better To Be Loved, as well as three new tracks.

"The new stuff is something different, those two elements of both my past and future coming together to make the moment in a twisted kind of science fiction way.

"The biggest surprise is that it's actually out there and people are actually responding to it. I've been in studio-land and the in-theory world for so long, but, ultimately, nobody really knows until it either works or doesn't."

His biggest worry?

"That the songs ended up not being good. Sometimes in your head your ideas sound better than they do in the physical world, but luckily for me we seem to have done it to where I feel happy at the end of the day."

Rockers stay close through success

MARIANAS TRENCH

Foursome set to unveil their new album in the fall

Jen Traplin
For Metro

Since their inception in 2001, Vancouver-based pop rockers Marianas Trench have been making a name for themselves across Canada and internationally.

Just two years after forming, the band scored a deal with 604 Records, which is co-owned by Nickelback frontman Chad Kroeger. They released their label debut, Fix Me, in 2006 and the song Say Anything eventually broke into the top three on the Canadian singles chart.

Their sophomore effort, Masterpiece Theatre, released in 2009, quickly became a commercial success, going platinum in Canada, while their 2011 album Ever After was nominated for a Juno Award for pop album of the year.

Through it all, the foursome — lead singer Josh Ramsey, bass player Mike Ayley, drummer Ian Casselman and guitarist Matt Webb — have remained a close-knit group of friends.

"We've all changed, our lives have changed, we've gone through different things, but I feel like we all seem to respect the other person's situation," Ayley said, adding, by now they have learned how to feel each other out.

"There's a weird, intuitive kind of relationship, but we're definitely all still very much friends, more than ever, actually, I think because of some of the history we've shared. Some of these experiences, sometimes the only other person who could understand what you've been through is somebody who has been through the same thing, too."

The band is getting set to unveil their next album, Astoria, for a fall release date and have already dropped two singles from it — POP 101 and Here's To The Zeroes.

Josh Ramsay of Marianas Trench arrives at the Much Music Video Awards on June 21 in Toronto. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Marianas Trench recently wrapped up a mini-tour of the U.S., and have festival appearances booked throughout the summer, including a set at RBC Ottawa Bluesfest, meaning the band's hectic pace won't be slowing down anytime soon — and that's alright with them.

"It doesn't feel like it could stop right now," Ayley said. "Especially with this album, we're going to be working our butts off."

IN CONCERT

Marianas Trench
When: July 10 at 8 p.m.
Where: Claridge Homes Stage

METZ living outside of expectations

Toronto-based noise rock band METZ has received glowing reviews and a number of accolades since the release of its self-titled debut album in 2012. The record made the Polaris Music Prize short list the following year and their latest effort, METZ II, is on this year's long list of nominees.

While having two critically acclaimed albums may cause additional pressure for other bands, that's simply not the case for METZ. Lead vocalist and guitarist Alex Edkins says his band tends to live outside of popular opinion.

"We've always just tried to do our own thing and kind of live outside what was expected of us or considered to be hip or trendy," he said, adding most of the pressure they feel comes from inside the band.

"We take what we're doing quite seriously. When we're working on an album or we're touring, we're really focused on just making the best thing we can. We do put quite a lot of pressure on ourselves to just continue to evolve and progress and improve in any way we can."

After the release of their debut album, METZ toured constantly for nearly two years before recording a follow-up. Now that it has been released, the band is back on the road with no end in sight.

The band's schedule is intense, but touring is certainly something the trio loves, especially when they have shows booked in Ottawa, where Edkins and bandmate Hayden Menzies grew up.

METZ
PHOTO BY SARAH CASS

The frontman admits performing in front of old friends and family members can be nerve-racking, but says he owes a lot to the local scene.

"Hayden and I are total 100 per cent products of the Ottawa music scene — that's where we dipped our toes in the water and fell in love with underground music, so I owe it all to Ottawa and the people I met there and the musicians that inspired me.

"It's definitely somewhere I'm proud to be from."

JEN TRAPLIN

IN CONCERT

METZ
When: July 14 at 7 p.m.
Where: Canadian Stage

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Connecting with the crowd

Steve Collins
For Metro

The last time Philip Sayce played Ottawa, back in March, it was to a couple hundred packed into the Rainbow, instead of thousands at Bluesfest. The objective doesn't change.

"What I'm always trying to do is connect with an audience, and whether that audience is 50 people or 50,000 people, my priority is to always perform and play to the best of my ability on that day and give it 100 per cent, and put it out there and, hopefully, connect with as many people in the audience that are open to sharing their energy as well."

He also has room in his heart for rooms like the Rainbow or Grossman's in Toronto, where he first jammed with mentor Jeff Healey, who would pluck the then-teenaged guitarist out of school and onto the road with his band.

"I love Grossman's and the one thing that I'm very thankful (for) is they gave me an opportunity, along with some other clubs — the Rainbow included in Ottawa, Silver Dollar in Toronto, Horseshoe, Black Swan, they gave me an opportunity to go in and play and to learn."

Gratitude also pervades Sayce's latest album, Influence, a combination of original songs and covers of artists such as Little Richard, Graham Nash, Little Feat, all who have influenced him and his music.

IN CONCERT

Philip Sayce
When: July 12 at 7 p.m.
Where: Bell Stage

"I'm not so much about trying to necessarily cover a song, because a lot of these artists, they're un-coverable, right? You can't really cover Little Richard. I think you can just sort of do your best to say, 'thank you, Little Richard, and this is my interpretation of your incredibleness.' These songs are about paying respect.

"The intention that I'm holding around this album is to give thanks to these artists that have set me on my course in life, to be in love with music."

Philip Sayce in studio. CONTRIBUTED

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The 'next big thing'

YOUNG STAR

Scott Helman talks patience to find success

Jen Traplin
For Metro

Declared by Much Music as the "next big thing," Toronto native Scott Helman is still reeling after his recent performance at the Much Music Video Awards.

"The whole evening was magical," he said. "It was pretty wild, kind of a dream come true. I grew up watching the MMVAs so, to be there performing and to be nominated as well, I had already won in my books."

His breakthrough single Bungalow, which was nominated for pop video of the year, was popular on alternative radio before making the jump to pop radio formats, allowing Helman to enjoy the success of the often rare crossover hit.

"It's cool that I've been able to make what I want to make and access all of those different audiences," he said. "There are so many great artists on pop radio and so many great artists on alternative radio and I think it's special that I get to access both of those audiences. It doesn't happen often so I'm very thankful."

Despite his young age (he turns 20 in October), Helman's story is far from that of an overnight success. He landed an artist development deal with Warner Music Canada when he was just 15 years old and has been working diligently on his music ever since, particularly his songwriting.

"The position that I was in with my label is really special and it doesn't come around very often so I thank my lucky stars. I think the thing that I was given was the room and the ability to grow as an artist before putting out music."

Helman believes he wouldn't be enjoying the same success today had he been rushed into things right away.

"The idea of releasing music at that moment is so attractive, but I was given room to find my voice and my art form and style. I don't think I would be making the music that I'm making right now if I didn't have that."

IN CONCERT

Scott Helman
When: July 12 at 3 p.m.
Where: Bell Stage

Scott Helman. CONTRIBUTED

Got the blues since kindergarten

MENTORSHIP

Teen musician moved on up to the Be In The Band program

Steve Collins
For Metro

From left: Owen Maxwell, Sean Mallia, Charles Bergeron, Hannah Fraser and Joe Fraser of Full Tipped Sleeve. CONTRIBUTED

Sean Mallia grew up with RBC Ottawa Bluesfest's community programs, starting with Blues In The Schools in kindergarten at Corpus Christi School.

"Every time they said, 'Oh we gotta go down to the gym, it's Blues In The Schools today,' that was the coolest thing," the 17-year-old said. "Today was going to be a good day."

He progressed to the Ottawa Bluesfest Be In The Band program and beyond, playing guitar for paying audiences with his own group of classmates, Full Tipped Sleeve.

Mallia's mother, Shauna Guilfoyle, was amazed at his growth — musical, professional and personal.

"They took it to the next level and actually started booking themselves gigs," she said. "They would play anywhere anybody would listen. He was a shy, sort of quiet guy, and all of a sudden he was this outgoing kid who could walk into a bar and introduce himself at 11, 12 years old."

There were some wrinkles in starting a musical career so young.

"I would have been 12 or 13 when we started doing bars and stuff, and it came up pretty often, the fact that I was very clearly underage," Mallia said. "We had fans who were also underage so they would come into the bar to watch us, but when it would hit 10 o'clock they'd get kicked out … We would be playing and see like half the bar just leaving."

Full Tipped Sleeve is no longer active (though the band's singer, Hannah Fraser, has moved on to front Bitter North) and these days competitive fencing takes up more of Mallia's time than music.

But he is hustling back from training camp in time for his must-see Bluesfest concert this year.

"I got the earliest (flight) I could get the morning that I'm leaving so that I'm back in time to see Kanye West that night."

IN CONCERT

Graduates of Bluesfest's Be In The Band program, a total of 21 bands, will strut their stuff on the Monster Energy Stage July 19 at 2:30 p.m. Also playing on the Monster Stage will be Blues In The Schools (2 p.m.), Rock U (5:45 p.m.) and the BITB Instructors' Showcase (7 p.m.)

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The Dropkick Murphys celebrate their 20th anniversary next year. CONTRIBUTED

Being 'the AC/DC of Celtic punk'

Steve Collins
For Metro

As the Dropkick Murphys stare down their 20th anniversary next year, they can look to at least one role model that has been in the business twice that long.

They have always done their best, said Murphys drummer Matt Kelly, to be "the AC/DC of Celtic punk."

"I suppose they embody what we aspire to do," he said. "They're a rock 'n' roll juggernaut that's been going strong for four decades now. They write no-nonsense, tough-but-tuneful songs that tell a story, and their songs are pretty much instantly recognizable. They're a band you can rely on to deliver the goods in a live setting, and their sound crosses generations. That's what we're talking about."

As for celebrating the big 2-0 next year, plans are still in the works, he said.

"We'll be doing something special for it, and if we think we have the right stuff, we'll maybe put out a record next year. With the last two albums being so close together, I suppose expectations are high for another quick turnaround, but that's just not the normal way things work, considering it was four years between The Meanest Of Times and Going Out In Style. We don't intend on waiting that long, but after 19 to 20 years of doing the hard yards, we're going to relax for a month or two."

Kelly recalls the band's last Bluesfest appearance in 2011.

"It was a blast. We shared the stage with Huey Lewis and the News, whom I hadn't seen live since about 1985."

If you missed the band last time, Kelly's advice is succinct.

"Wear your earplugs, detach your cellphone from your hand/ear and enjoy yourself in the moment. Our supporters are the most fervent and best around, so take your cues from them, they're gonna show you how it's done."

IN CONCERT

Dropkick Murphys
When: July 17 at 8 p.m.
Where: Claridge Homes Stage

Hometown heroes broaden their sound

BLUESY RIFFS

MonkeyJunk trio talk rock 'n' roll influence on new album

Keith Carman
For Metro

"Just because you can do something doesn't mean you should."

MonkeyJunk singer/baritone guitarist/organist/harmonica player Steve Marriner is full of some sage advice.

He has been around the block a few times, as have colleagues Tony D (guitar) and Matt Sobb (drums). Over the past eight years, this blues-heavy swamp/rock power trio has been picking up some intense international attention thanks to esteemed albums such as 2013's All Frequencies (Stony Plain Records) and acclaim, including a Juno Award for blues album of the year.

Gearing up to issue full-length New Moon Turn Red post-summer, Marriner said these hometown heroes will be road-testing some selections during their RBC Ottawa Bluesfest performance. Still, they are heavily focused on ensuring the recording process is a smooth one.

"We're only three guys," he said. "We have to keep that in mind. You can still cover a lot ground in the studio, but you have to be careful not to take too many sonic liberties. The studio is fun. There are all these toys and you can turn everything into big, epic opuses. But for us? We'd be shooting ourselves in the foot. We do what we can with what we have."

To that extent, while MonkeyJunk initially hit the music scene with conventional blues in mind, Marriner said New Moon Turn Red shows that the trio is broadening its aural horizons.

"Each album has been a stripping away of inhibitions. We started off as a traditional blues band, but our newest record is pretty rock 'n' roll. There are still bluesy riffs throughout, but there's also more attack, which shouldn't be too much of a shock for people who know our older material like You Make A Mess or Sirens In The Night, rock tunes with a blues edge. We've continued in that direction and there's all kinds of different stuff on this record, but it all hits pretty hard."

IN CONCERT

MonkeyJunk
When: July 19 at 8 p.m.
Where: Monster Energy Stage

MonkeyJunk's 2013 album All Frequencies won a Juno for blues album of the year. CONTRIBUTED

Catriona Sturton CONTRIBUTED

There isn't much this blues player hasn't explored

If Catriona Sturton has the blues, she certainly doesn't show it.

"I was deciding between neuroscience and music at one point in my life," the Ottawa-based blues guitarist/singer/harmonica player revealed with a modest shrug. "Music is one of those things that I knew I wanted to do for a long time, but wasn't quite brave enough to follow through with."

Odd. When hearing the bastion of jaw-dropping experience in Sturton's brief, yet vibrant life, a lack of courage doesn't exactly spring to mind.

Chock full of gobsmacking moments that seem almost surreal, Sturton's history is actually quite packed with gusto. From learning her craft via sneaking into bars underage to a notable stint with independent rockers Plumtree (the brainchildren behind the comic-turned-movie Scott Pilgrim craze), and traversing the globe to perform traditional Japanese folk music in its native land, there isn't much this artist hasn't explored.

Most recently, her biggest move has been to leave, "one of the sweetest jobs imaginable (working for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library charitable foundation)," in order to dedicate herself to music full-time. Currently, this means performing selections from her debut independent extended EP Bumble Bee entirely solo.

"I wanted to go the one-woman band route for a while," she said. "Artistically, there's something satisfying about doing all the parts yourself. You're connected to it all internally. Another person can't find the interplay of instruments like I can — they can't be in my head."

To that extent, Sturton reveals that, while the autonomous road works for now, she would eventually like to welcome other musicians into the fold. Beyond that, her only other deep-seated goal? To redefine the masculine-dominated world of blues harp.

"Harmonica's gender balance ... there are very few female harmonica players in the world. I enjoy a variety of people who play guitar and harmonica at the same time. I'm aiming to become one of the notable people in that. That's the reason I wanted to do it really well."

KEITH CARMAN

IN CONCERT

Catriona Sturton
When: July 17 at 8:15 p.m.
Where: Monster Energy Stage

Dallas Smith CONTRIBUTED

From alt-rock to country hero

ALL ABOUT THE LIVE SHOW

Dallas Smith always has something new

Keith Carman
For Metro

Dallas Smith is becoming the "default" — pun intended — Canadian country hero.

For those unfamiliar with the Langley, B.C.-born singer-songwriter, Smith's few short years in the world of country music have been nothing but red hot — the 2012 debut full-length Jumped Right In (604 Records) garnered five hit singles, a host of award nominations and sold-out tours.

Moreover, 2013 EP Tipping Point set the record as the fastest-ever Canadian country effort to go gold, eventually becoming certified platinum. Not a bad bit of overnight sensation, which was actually a decade-long in the making, if one counts Smith's years with revered alt-rock outfit Default.

"These past three years have been pretty crazy," Smith said. "It's been fast, but the music is really connecting. I think the biggest reason for that is coming to this genre with what I do as a solo artist with 12 years of experience behind me. It keeps me more focused — aware of where I need to work and what to concentrate on."

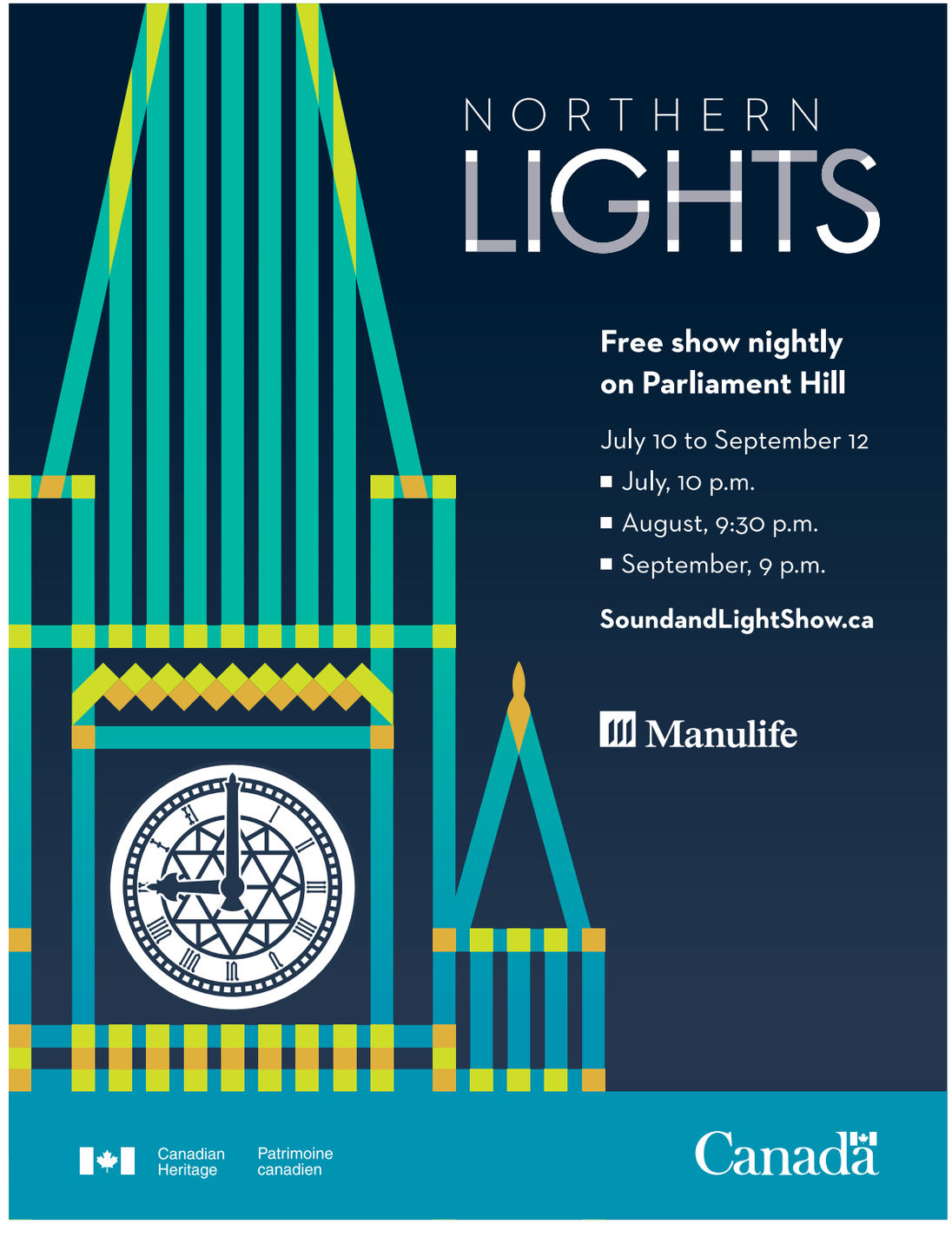
Impressively focused and driven without sacrificing amicability or enthusiasm, Smith notes that concentration these days is honed in on writing material to follow up his 2014 sophomore effort: Lifted. His highest-ranking affair on charts to date, it's a tall order to match — let alone surpass.

"As a music fan, I like having new songs more often anyway. It keeps things interesting and fresh because you're never in the same place personally or professionally over time. You change as a person, so the songs you write — or even the way you play them — will be different.

"Either way, the live show is still the backbone of it all. It's about getting out there and feeling the songs, connecting with people. We concentrate on representing the song well live, but staying entertaining and interactive. I never want to be that band that just stands there and plays. How boring. I want to be in-your-face and see people enjoying themselves."

IN CONCERT

Dallas Smith
When: July 16 at 7 p.m.
Where: Bell Stage



Emma Peckford CONTRIBUTED

She's The One competition finds Canada's best

Every year, RBC Ottawa Bluesfest seeks out the best, young, female singers in the country through the She's The One emerging artist competition.

Participants are between the ages of 13 and 21 and come from varying musical backgrounds and genres. Finalists are invited to Ottawa to perform at Bluesfest with the winner collecting a prize package that includes the professional recording and production of a song.

Corner Brook, N.L., native Emma Peckford, 16, was the winner of the She's The One competition last year, a day she remembers vividly.

"All 10 girls were backstage and they were kind of stalling, as all the judges were deliberating," she said. "We were all holding each others' hands and I remember, when they said my name, I actually fell back. I was completely shocked."

Part of the package she won included a trip to Los Angeles last October, where she spent eight days working with a producer and video crew.

IN CONCERT

She's the One
When: July 11 at 3:45 p.m.
Where: Barney Danson Theatre, Canadian War Museum

Peckford admits the experience was a game changer.

"I'm not used to big-city life and I'm certainly not used to being treated like a star, so to have a makeover done and record a big music video and work with these people who are professionals and work with some of the biggest names in the industry — it was completely surreal and it still feels like it was a dream," she said, adding she learned some valuable lessons along the way.

"The biggest thing I've learned is that every person has a unique style and unique values and they believe and value different things. To stay true to that is probably the most important thing because it's really easy to get caught up in thinking you have to be or look a certain way, but I think if you stay true to what you really want to do and what you believe in, then you can shine."

JEN TRAPLIN/FOR METRO

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RAVENS
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Local musician in awe of his students

WORKSHOPS

Blues In The Schools program incorporates some blues and gospel, and a touch of Top 40, too

Steve Collins
For Metro

Months before the RBC Ottawa Bluesfest stages go up, a new generation of music fans gets a preview from the Blues In The Schools program, when musicians perform and conduct hands-on workshops for students for two weeks.

"Programs like this just don't exist out there at all and to have all these amazing musicians come into their school, they couldn't believe what was happening," said Alan Marsden, Bluesfest's community programs manager. "It was magical to them."

The musicians, he added, need a special mix of skills.

"Sometimes there are some great musicians who aren't very good teachers so it's important to be able to weed them out and find people who are really going to connect with the kids."

Among those who fit that bill is local musician Matt Chaffey (Brothers Chaffey, The Split), a regular in the Blues In The Schools and Be In The Band programs.

"We don't try to hit them too heavy with music history and stuff that, or doing a lot of more traditional teaching methods," Chaffey said. "We just try to keep it loose and we try to incorporate, for the performance, songs that they might be interested in as well.

"We definitely throw some gospel songs their way or some blues songs their way, but if they want to do a newer tune or incorporate something from the Top 40 that they're all into, we try to do that as well, so that kind of piques their attention and gets them more interested."

Local musician Matt Chaffey passes on his passion for music through the Blues In The Schools program.
CONTRIBUTED

This year, Bruno Mars' Uptown Funk and Gotye's Somebody That I Used To Know made the curriculum.

Chaffey said his students impress him every year.

"When I first started I was a little, 'I don't know what I've gotten myself into' type of thing, and then about halfway through, you see these kids, they're like 13 years old, and they were a band and the singers were taking charge. I just sat back and it was just, like, wow. You just see them totally come into this new confidence. I get a lot out of it, just watching that."

Lurrie Bell has released more than 50 albums. CONTRIBUTED

STILL PLAYING

'Always got the blues'

"When you called I was singing a blues song," guitarist/singer Lurrie Bell said from his Chicago home.

With barely a "hello" out of his mouth, he is already rolling into a serenade of genre standard I'm Gonna Let You Down Easy.

"I've always got the blues, even though things are pretty great these days," he said. "I'm working, happy and glad to be alive. A lot of my people are gone, but I'm still living and able to represent the blues as I do."

Commonly revered as the son of famed harmonica player Carey Bell, yet with an illustrious career of his own — 50-plus albums, appearances, collaborations and countless awards — Bell is humble about his storied history. Glancing at the plethora of accolades on his window sill, he expresses gratitude at still being able to pick up a guitar and sing after so many years.

"I think, 'You're not too bad of a musician after all. Looking back gives me energy, something I can't explain. These days, everybody gets the blues — children, adults, even nature and animals. I kind of see what I have achieved over the years and it's a good feeling."

IN CONCERT

Lurrie Bell
When: July 16 at 7 p.m.
Where: Monster Energy Stage

Which isn't to say that Bell is resting on his laurels, as his forthcoming RBC Ottawa Bluesfest appearance assures. In fact, he quips that contemplation results not only in a happy present, but also a bright future.

"I think about growing up around some of the baddest blues musicians you'd ever want to know. They taught me how to play the blues by listening to them. Once I got on my guitar, I began to learn what those old-timers taught me. Today, a lot of them are gone, but I can pick up my guitar and hear them inside my head. I'm glad to know I have the capability to play what I feel inside."

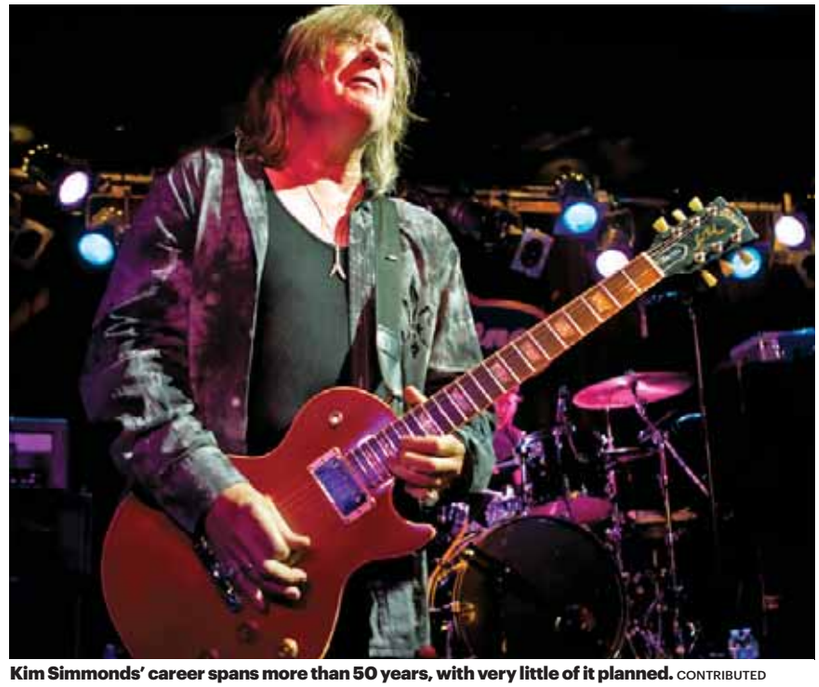
KEITH CARMAN

Kim Simmonds doing it his own way without any goals

ALL ABOUT PERSONALITY

Known for ripping on his six-string

Keith Carman
For Metro



Kim Simmonds' career spans more than 50 years, with very little of it planned. CONTRIBUTED

"This is no Mick Jagger you're talking to here. I think I've done everything to destroy my career, but I'm still here."

To say that legendary blues/rock guitarist Kim Simmonds is a card would be an understatement. Despite a career that has just reached a half-century, innumerable albums, appearances, performances and distinctions, he still keeps his feet firmly planted on the ground. Generally with a very tongue-in-cheek perspective.

"I don't give a hoot what anybody says," said the Welsh-born axeman, known not only for his six-string slinging, but also kick-starting the world of British blues via esteemed outfit Savoy Brown.

Keenly skirting the question of what exactly he has done to sabotage his career over 50 years, he merely admits that very little has actually been planned.

"I've never been goal oriented. In fact, I've never known what a goal was. I wish I'd set them in life, but I was too busy doing whatever the heck I wanted. It's had its pluses and minuses, but I've been able to do everything my own way, which is what most people strive for. It's tough, but you fight — a very hard road to go, but it's worthwhile."

IN CONCERT

Kim Simmonds & Savoy Brown 50th Anniversary
When: July 10 at 7 p.m.
Where: Monster Energy Stage

Reflecting on his lengthy tenure as one of blues rock's greats, Simmonds is rife with humility. He chalks up much of his endurance to the separation between technical guitarists and those with feel.

"You can straightaway see if someone's true and honest or hiding something. You can instantly hear overplaying or being tasteful. You don't have to be a musician or intellectual to be an aficionado. It's the kind of instrument that you can really hear personality with.

"A million people can play better than me, but would you pay $35 to see them? Probably not. There has to be something beyond the notes to attract you. Fifty years along the way, I'm not the best guitar player, but at least people are interested. I see (personality) in others and hope I've got it — I might if I've been around this long."

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Folk veteran is only as good as his last chord

NEW ALBUM NOT LIKE OTHERS

Richard Thompson says it's all about practise

Keith Carman
For Metro

British folk rock Richard Thompson has been around the block.

Kick-starting his career with seminal outfit Fairport Convention circa the 1960s, this London, England, legend has spent the last five decades dabbling in — and amalgamating — everything from rock and folk to acoustic, alternative, and beyond.

It's one of the reasons he has been bestowed a number of awards and distinctions honouring everything from his best-selling albums to his inimitable guitar style. In fact, for his work representing British music, he recently received the incredibly lofty Order of the British Empire.

> **I'm happy that I've gone to places on this record where I haven't trodden before.**
> Richard Thompson

That said, the multi-faceted vocalist/instrumentalist is rife with humility. Even as his 16th studio effort Still (Fantasy Records) hits shelves this summer, he maintains a rigorous rehearsal schedule, striving to challenge his comfort zones.

"You're only as good as your last chord. Practise, practise, practise. I hope I've managed to avoid my own clichés (with this album). Everyone does repeat ideas to some extent. I call that 'style,' but I'm happy that I've gone to places on this record where I haven't trodden before."

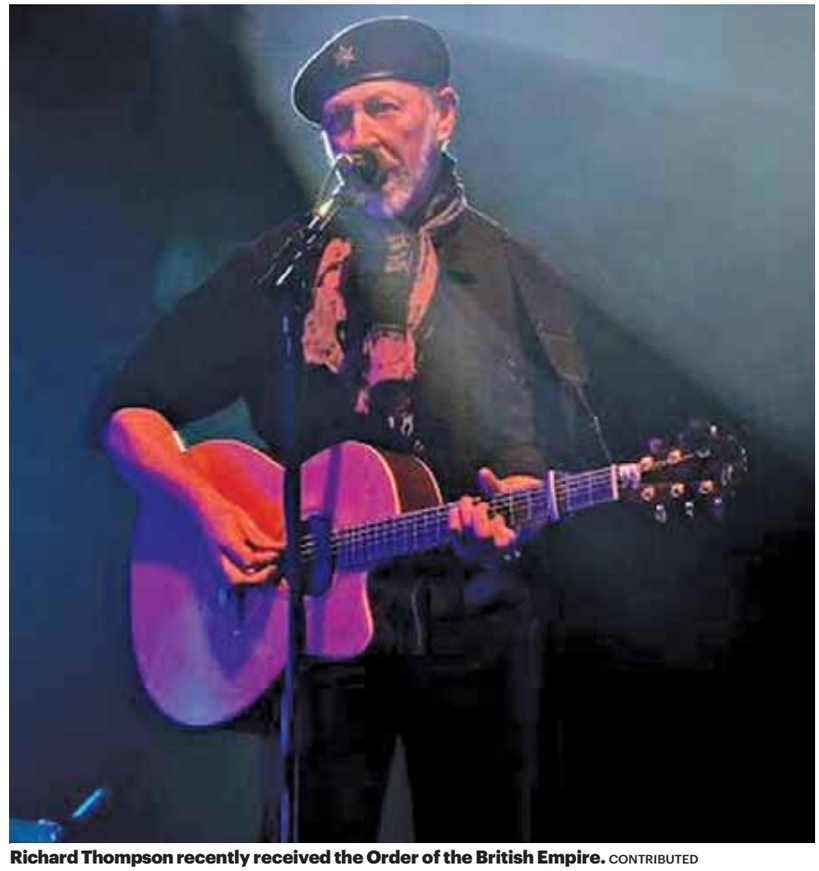
Mission accomplished. Reflecting on the album's tracks, Thompson is proud that Still features some atypical moments in comparison to his past, feeling as though the album revealed itself to him as opposed to needing to be hammered out.

More concerned with the overall picture, however, he jests that with a legacy that is literally a half-century deep, he still keeps his eyes set firmly forward, lest reality sets in.

"I feel I got closer on this record to a dream state. I feel I dreamt rather than wrote the songs. If they still convey something to the listener, then I think that's a deeper experience. I pretend I'm 23. If I really take on board this 50 years in the business stuff, I'll get super-depressed and start acting like an old person."

IN CONCERT

Richard Thompson
When: July 12 at 9:30 p.m.
Where: Monster Energy Stage



Richard Thompson recently received the Order of the British Empire. CONTRIBUTED

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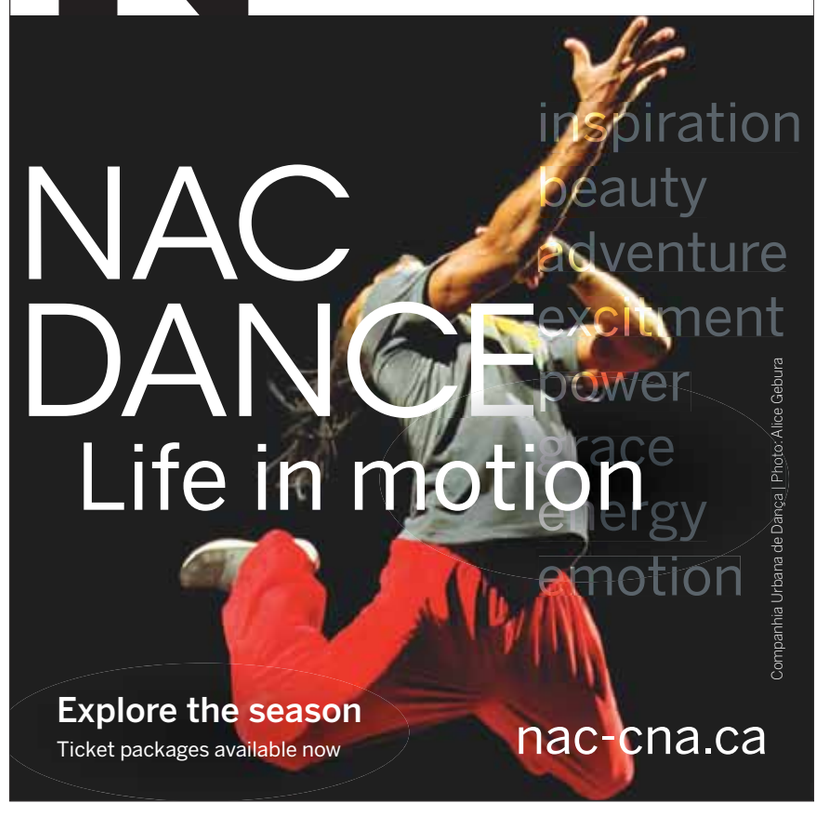

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WEEKEND, July 10-12, 2015

THE KOHLER REPORT: ON ANTI-VAXXERS

It's like you decided to jump off the bandwagon because you saw it was headed for a cliff.

When it came out this week that Bill Cosby had once admitted under oath that he had given a woman drugs because he wanted to have sex with her, a bunch of (dumb) people were like "OMG, you mean he's guilty?" while the rest of us were like "Duh".

I had a similar duh-y feeling on Tuesday when I read the results of the National Poll on Children's Health in which it was reported that 34 per cent of parents reported feeling that vaccines are more beneficial than they felt a year ago.

The study surmises it was the measles outbreaks of 2014-2015 that led this group of parents to changing their uneducated tune. While I'm glad they've seen the (potentially deadly) light, I'm irritated to no end that it took a measles outbreak to convince them.

As you may know, in 1998, the Lancet published Dr. Andrew Wakefield's iffy study linking the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine to autism. As you may not know, but probably should, it was retracted in 2012, two years after Wakefield lost his medical licence.

But the rumour spread, much like the measles, and some people stopped vaccinating their children. Now, a disease that the CDC declared eliminated from the U.S. in 2000 is back with 800 new U.S. cases since January 2014. Imagine the last scene of a horror movie: The camera slowly zooms in on a tombstone that reads "Here lies The Measles, 2000." Then, just as you're about to relax, a pock-marked arm juts out of the ground! TO BE CONTINUED…

It's thanks to those 800 cases that "34% of parents think vaccines have more benefit than they did one year ago." Wow. There was so much proof that the vaccine worked (i.e., lots of people were dying from the measles, and then after the vaccine was introduced, people stopped getting the measles ... anyway, boring!), and so little evidence it caused autism (if one printed lie is evidence). It just blows my mind that people attach themselves to the less-proven, more dangerous element of the story.

Now they're casually, "Yeah, I heard there was a measles outbreak, I guess I see why vaccines work." Eff you! It's like you decided to jump off the bandwagon because you saw it was headed for a cliff.

By the way, if you're still on the fence, did you know Wakefield did part of the "study" at his own child's birthday party, where he took blood samples from some of the party guests? ("Let's play pin the needle in your vein!") The study was so full of bunk, it's as if people decided to put the health of their children and thousands of others at risk because of a fairy tale.

It's pretty much as ridiculous to me as a child who learns about Santa Claus and then never wants to let him go. Even after finding out, they're still like, "No. I've seen pictures of him in books. He's on my Coke bottle. He's real." And then they have kids and, even though everyone's like, "There's no Santa, you better buy your kids some presents," they're like, "I don't care what billions of people say, Santa Claus is coming to town." But then on Christmas morning, there are no presents and then it's all, "You know what, there might not be a Santa." Yeah, we *told you*.

The only HUGE difference here is that a lack of Santa isn't going to kill anyone.

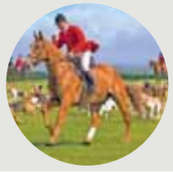
Rebecca Kohler is a standup comic, writer, actor, gymnast, lawyer and chemist. (Some of this isn't true.) Follow her on Twitter @becca_kohler

Happy face/Sad face

From **voyaging viruses** to **frightened foxes,** Metro weighs in on the news making headlines this week

Return of fox hunting has activists howling

Animal-rights activists are braying about the U.K. government's proposal to relax the rules on the controversial sport of fox hunting. David Cameron's Conservative Party wants to allow it in England and Wales, on "appropriate" land and with protection for other animals. MPs are pretty evenly split ahead of Wednesday's vote. Right now, hunters may only flush out and stalk foxes with a maximum of two dogs.



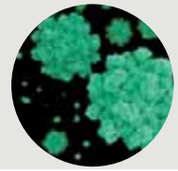
The Great Canadian beersicle

It brings a whole new meaning to "ice-cold beer." A Fredericton shop has made the ultimate summer refresher: beer freezies. The Dooryard Shandy Sorbet Freezie is made with a local wheat ale, lemon and lime juice and honey sorbet. Most of the alcohol is burned off in the cooking process, so "You're not going to get drunk off them — fortunately, or unfortunately," says creator Levi Lawrence.

SOURCE: CBC

Stowaway sickness strikes globe

A once-rare strain of the stomach-flu germ norovirus that broke out in China this winter seems to be hitching a ride around the globe. The virus, called GII.17, has turned up recently in Japan, Taiwan, Korea and Kenya. It's contagious but not usually life-threatening, though a global pandemic could easily infect hundreds of thousands. Drug company Takeda is working on a vaccine — a notoriously finicky task in science. SOURCE: BLOOMBERG



Listen up for good news about hearing

Despite research, there's still little medical treatment (only surgery) available for genetic deafness. That may be about to change. Researchers in the journal Science Translation Medicine have hit upon a possible gene therapy. They used genetically deaf mice in an experiment, and with some biochemical wizardry, were able to stimulate production of a protein that doesn't work in some deaf people. Then when they surprised the unsuspecting rodents with loud noises, the mice jumped — indicating the treatment worked. SOURCE: THE GOOD NEWS NETWORK

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

The bottle collector and the power of a simple 'Thank you'

There was a man asking for change outside the meat shop the other day.

I gave him a few loonies and a bus token.

Later that day, C. — my boyfriend — passed by the same meat shop and the same man. C. didn't have change, but he was on his way to buy a Jamaican patty.

"Do you want one?" he asked.

"No, I'm vegan," the man said, in all seriousness.

"They have spinach ones," C. countered.

"No ..." the man said, "They're kind of gross."

C. — when he told me this story — smiled and shrugged, "I guess beggars can be choosers."

Fast forward to a recent evening. I was on the front porch with a gin and tonic. A man pushed his bike, loaded with bags, along the sidewalk and stopped in front of the house.

"Bottles?" he asked, and headed toward the recycling bins. With my parents in town, it's been a boozy week, so I told him to hold on and I popped inside to grab wine, beer and gin bottles.

Bottle collectors sweep my neighbourhood daily. One told me he works a 12-hour shift through the night. Most are more likely to say hi to me than many of my neighbours. They're more likely to show concern for my welfare, too.

Last year, I was approaching my house at the same time as one man. It was dark, and I didn't have lights on my bike. The man pointed to his own headlamp. "Lights!" he said, and pointed to my bike. He said something like, "Danger!" — and I knew I was being kindly admonished.

This time, empty bottles in my arms, I came back out to the street to the man waiting for me. "Thank you!" he said. "Good one!" he noted as I passed the tall amber beer bottles. "Thank you!" he said again. "Thank you! Thank you!"

He moved on to the next house, and before he passed out of sight, he waved and called, "Thank you!"

I hadn't been thanked that much all week. I thought how little I know about him, and how much I assume.

I don't know where he goes when his shift ends, whether his family is around, or how he got into the bottle-collecting life. But if I was surprised at his pleasantness, I must have assumed he was unhappy.

I don't know where the man by the meat shop came from, what events collided to land him on that sidewalk, or why he went vegan (if he really is). But if I was surprised at his alleged diet, I must have assumed he was desperate.

In both cases, I was wrong. And in both cases, I have no right to judge.

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The dramatic approach

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These musical stories are told with panache

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse

Asif Kapadia's documentary Amy features never-before-seen footage and more than 100 interviews with people from singer Amy Winehouse's personal and professional life. It is a heartbreaking up-close-and-personal look at a woman who, as Tony Bennett says in the movie, didn't live long enough to learn how to live.

Kapadia may be best known as the filmmaker behind the BAFTA-winning documentary Senna, but says, "It's funny, but I am really a drama guy."

His docs are structured like feature films. Amy, for instance, plays on a few levels, featuring several dramatic arcs. It's a cautionary tale of the effects of international stardom. It's a portrait of drug addiction, exploitation and a woman who looked to men for protection, and chose badly. It's the story of Amy, a fiercely talented person who laid her heart bare in her art only to have what should have been her saviour, her music, ultimately be her undoing.

When I asked Kapadia if he looked at other music docs before beginning work on Amy he said, "I don't have references I look to. I just kind of make it up as I'm going along. For example, in the sequence with the paparazzi, I'm thinking of Raging Bull, with flashguns going off. I'm not thinking of a doc where you have someone's life and then they pick up a guitar and sing."

Here's a list of other music bios — some docs, some features — that take a dramatic approach and give a complete look at the personal and creative lives of their subjects:

Amy Winehouse movie Amy is a documentary structured like a feature film. Critic Richard Crouse looks back at other films about music that give the viewer a look into the personal and creative lives of the subjects. ALL PHOTOS HANDOUT

Anvil! The Story of Anvil

It would be easy to call Anvil a real-life Spinal Tap.

The story of the heaviest heavy metal band you've never heard of bears a strong resemblance to the legendary fictional band, but it is so much more than that. It is a story of passion, of trying to beat the odds, of friendship, of hope against hope. It's also quite funny and the music will peel the paint off your home theatre walls.

I'm Not There

It's an elliptical and metaphoric retelling of Bob Dylan's life, but none of the characters in it are called Bob Dylan. Most of them don't look like Dylan, and the one who most looks like Dylan is a woman, played by Cate Blanchett.

Yet I felt I knew more about what makes Bob Dylan tick when I left the theatre than I did about Johnny Cash following Walk the Line or Ray Charles after Ray.

Something from Nothing: The Art of Rap

A vibrant look at the art of hip hop, the first documentary from Ice-T profiles the passion of the grandmasters of rap: Afrika Bambaataa, Treach Criss, Doug E. Fresh, KRS-One, Dr. Dre and more.

Worth it to hear Snoop Dogg's (now Snoop Lion) songwriting methodology: "I need to smoke a lot of weed, and have a couple girls there because I like looking at them."

Get on Up

James Brown was known as many things — The Godfather of Soul, Soul Brother No. 1, Mr. Dynamite and The Hardest Working Man in Show Business — but he preferred to be called Mr. Brown. His rise from poverty to the top of the R&B charts is brought to life in a knockout performance from Chadwick Boseman, who plays Brown from age 16 to 60.

MOVIE RATINGS
by Richard Crouse

Amy	★★★★
Big Game	★★
Batkid Begins	★★★
Self/less	★★

HOW RATING WORKS

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Way more than iPhoning it in

Mickey O'Hagan and Kitana Kiki Rodriguez in Tangerine. CONTRIBUTED

GROUNDBREAKING

Tangerine's smartphone move perfect for gritty film

Steve Gow
For Metro

After two TV shows, five films and 15 years in showbiz, Sean Baker has finally found success shooting a movie on his iPhone.

"I wish I could say it was born out of the story and an esthetic approach — I would've been impressed with myself," laughed the New York-based filmmaker recently. "But it actually all stems from a budgetary constraint — we just didn't have the money. I'm on my fifth film, I couldn't pull favours anymore."

As such, Baker (perhaps best-known as one of the creators of TV's Greg The Bunny), set out to make Tangerine — a movie shot entirely on smartphones and the very first to premiere at the Sundance Film Festival.

"Some mainstream films have been using tiny HD cameras — they just haven't made a big deal of it," said Baker, insisting many movies have adopted non-conventional footage that's enhanced in post-production.

Baker knew the true challenge with engaging audiences was overturning the preconceptions that come with openly admitting your film was entirely shot on iPhones. "Hopefully the reviews that also focus on how good my actors (are) override it," said Baker.

Early reviews have undoubtedly quelled the director's concern.

The gritty comic-drama about a pair of transgender prostitutes trying to hunt down a cheating boyfriend has been lauded for its groundbreaking performances and cinematic texture — factors that Baker admits he hadn't realized until he began filming on mobile devices.

> **"I never thought that our little film would actually be received so well.**
> Director Sean Baker

"All the benefits revealed themselves to us as we were shooting," said Baker. "Like the fact that we could shoot more clandestine (and) we wouldn't be intimidating first-time actors with a device that doesn't look like a camera…lots of things after the fact made it seem like the obvious choice all along."

Baker may have stumbled into his greatest success through the modesty of a micro-budget, but if Tangerine attracts an audience the way it has won over many film critics, his innovative production may yet become the next big trend in Tinseltown.

"Hollywood's already doing elevated found-footage type movies," reasoned Baker, pointing to the fad that's fathered films like Paranormal Activity and Project Almanac.

"I think Hollywood is always looking for whatever is hot (so) why not? If they see an opportunity in it, they'll take it."

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POTUS with a Big problem

BIG GAME

Finn's actioner an homage to the '80s films of his youth

Richard Crouse
Metro | Life

When Finnish director Jalmari Helander saw his new film Big Game at the Toronto International Film Festival's Midnight Madness, he was reduced to tears.

"It was one of the nicest moments of my life," he says on the line from Helsinki. "It was a really big theatre with a lot of people and they were giving it applauses in the middle and shouting and really loving the film. I was crying in my seat with pure happiness. It was really amazing.

"If you think about rock stars, they play for an audience and get feedback at all times. But for a moviemaker it's really, really rare you can see the reaction of the audience."

The movie is an '80s style POTUS-with-a-problem action flick starring Samuel L. Jackson as the U.S. president stranded by terrorists in the wilds of Finland. He's kept alive by Oskari (Onni Tommila), a teen who demonstrates his bravery by keeping the president alive despite great odds.

Big Game is an homage to the kinds of movies Helander grew up watching, "the old Indiana Jones films or Spielberg." The kind of films, he says, that "stretch the limits of what's believable and what's not."

Being a director, he adds, also gives him the chance to impart the euphoric feeling he felt the first time he saw Escape from New York or Die Hard.

"That's the reason I want to make movies, to try and give the same feeling to someone else."

Big Game's star is Jackson, but the movie's beating heart is Helander's nephew and favourite actor Onni Tommila, who was just 13 when he shot the film.

The role is very physical, but Onni says the one stunt he was allowed to do was cut from the film and "when I am shooting with the bow that was done in a green screen. It wasn't that cool."

What was cool was working with his co-star. Just not the one you might expect. "At first I was nervous in front of Samuel L. Jackson, but in the end I think I was more nervous in front of my father." His dad co-stars as a villager and they share several scenes together. "I want him to feel like… I can't explain it. In some ways working with my father is harder, but in another way it is easier."

Onni Tommila and Samuel L. Jackson in Big Game. CONTRIBUTED

THE TV DINNER JESSICA ALLEN

A visit to Calgary is like exploring a Canadian province and five American states all in one trip

Alberta is all about enjoying contrasts in everything from landscapes to food. At right, a course at the River Café and funnel cake. ALL PHOTOS BY JESSICA ALLEN

I just got back from my first trip to Calgary, where I was filming at the Stampede for my day job. I saw real-life cowboys. I even saw hail — in July! But mostly I saw Calgary as a city of contrasts.

Take the political scene: The 44-year-long PC reign ended back in May when the NDP won the provincial election, not to mention that for the last five years, the young, charismatic, liberally minded Naheed Nenshi has been mayor. Yet everyone with whom I spoke had something to say about their new bike lanes: mostly that they hated them.

And the Stampede itself — a 10-day-long annual event that's defined the city for nearly 100 years — is a study in contrasts: Cuffs and collars can come courtesy of iconic Lammle's Western Wear or the celebrity-dressing fashion designer Paul Hardy. Entertainment can be found at the Cowboy Casino, where bartenders make Hooters' servers look modest, or at any number of champagne-flowing private events hosted by Big Oil's top brass. And, depending to whom you speak, the Stampede is either a celebration of majestic animals or an abuse of them.

And then there's the food: Sample classic corn dogs, funnel cakes, turkey legs on the Stampede fairgrounds. (Pizza topped with cockroaches *almost* made it on to the menu). Or visit any number of eateries, like the River Café, Model Milk and Charcut, which consistently rank on the country's best restaurants lists, for innovative comestibles on another level.

I did both styles, eating a lobster corn dog, mac and cheese topped with pulled pork and funnel cake one day and devouring four memorable courses at the River Café the next.

Alberta's optics can be confusing — even more so when you consider that the vast province has been the landscape doppelgänger for Montana, Texas, Wyoming and Colorado. Although older films, like River of No Return (1954), Little Big Man (1970) and Days of Heaven (1979) — maybe one of the most beautifully photographed films ever — filmed scenes there, it was Clint Eastwood's Academy Award-winning 1992 film Unforgiven that put the province on the map, so to speak.

Legends of the Fall and Brokeback Mountain followed. And Christopher Nolan seems to have a special penchant for it: He shot scenes for both Inception and Interstellar in Alberta.

Most recently, the province doubled as South Dakota when Oscar-winning director Alejandro González Iñárritu hauled Tom Hardy and Leonardo DiCaprio on what's become a notoriously difficult shoot to film scenes for The Revenant, which will be widely released next year.

I was only there three days. But I'm going back, not only because I saw just the silhouette of the Rockies from car windows, but also because the people are warm and wonderful and it'll be like exploring a Canadian province and five American states all in one trip. And also, I suppose, because opposites attract.

Jessica Allen is the digital correspondent on CTV's The Social.

DOUGHNUT-LICKING VIDEO

Grande fallout

Police said Wednesday they were investigating video that appears to show Ariana Grande licking doughnuts at a shop in Southern California. Earlier, Grande apologized for saying "I hate America" in the same video.

Police in Lake Elsinore, where the doughnut shop is located, said they and Riverside County public health officials were investigating the leaked video, which appeared to show the 22-year-old singer and a man with her "maliciously lick" the doughnuts.

Mayra Solis, 22, a cashier at Wolfee Donuts, said the singer didn't purchase any of the doughnuts she licked. "She was really rude," Solis told The Associated Press.

A spokeswoman for the Riverside County Department of Environmental Health said the agency was investigating why the doughnuts were left out unprotected and exposed to the public, in violation of state food laws. THE CANADIAN PRESS

No purchase necessary. Contest open 12:01 am on July 8, 2015 to 11:59pm on July 16, 2015 to legal residents of Calgary, Toronto, Edmonton, Vancouver, Winnipeg, Ottawa and Halifax (ex QB) of age of majority in their province of residence at time of entry. Prizes available 20 double passes to the advance screening of SOUTHPAW per market. ARV $25.00 a pair CDN. Odds depend on number of eligible entries received. Internet, email address, and math skill testing question required. Rules and entry **www.clubmetro.com**

BATKID

'Good Canadian boy' was thrilled to help make dream come true

Miles Scott, above, was Batman for a day. Mike Jutan, below, played The Penguin. WARNER BROS./GETTY IMAGES

Chances are you saw the footage on the news.

On Nov. 15, 2013, San Francisco transformed into Gotham-By-the-Bay as Batkid, accompanied by Batman, rescued a damsel in distress, threw the Riddler in jail and saved Lou Seal, the Mascot of the San Francisco Giants, from the grips of criminal mastermind The Penguin.

It was Make-A-Wish's largest ever event, a citywide happening to grant five-year-old cancer survivor Miles Scott's request to be a superhero for a day.

The Batkid — who was still in diapers when he was diagnosed with leukemia — drew crowds in the tens of thousands, earned a Twitter message from U.S. President Barack Obama and was given the key to the city by San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee.

London, Ont.-born software engineer Mike Jutan was given a front-row seat to the action when his friend, inventor and acrobat Eric Johnson, asked him to play Gotham's greatest villain The Penguin.

"As a good Canadian boy, I like peppering community service stuff in amongst the many things I already do," says Jutan, who now lives in San Fran and works for Industrial Light and Magic.

A new documentary, Batkid Begins, details how the event bloomed from a small experience into a heartwarming media sensation. RICHARD CROUSE/FOR METRO LIFE

Karma for sale

Ryan Reynolds plays the reincarnated version of an outrageously wealthy, greedy man in Self/less. ALL PHOTOS HANDOUT

Q&A

Ryan Reynolds talks hubris, junkets and franchises

Matt Prigge
Metro in New York City

Ryan Reynolds just got back from five weeks in Bangkok, and right away he has to do a junket, solo, for his new film, the sci-fi thriller Self/less.

And yet despite jet lag he remains in good spirits, even if junkets aren't at all times an ideal form of communication, and even if the film he's talking about can get heavy. In it, he plays the reincarnated version of a wealthy greed monster, played by Ben Kingsley, who's so rich he's able to pay a shady company to transfer his consciousness from his dying body to a new one, namely one played by Ryan Reynolds.

This is a film that really digs into anxieties over mortality and the dissolution of the self. Were those the ideas that most grabbed you?
Not really. It was the idea of hubris and arrogance and the class system, and all these things that propel a person to say, "Oh, I cocked up the first life. Let me just buy another one."

It's just so vile to think like that. I like seeing characters fall from grace, and I like seeing characters accept or deal with consequences.

Damian actually becomes someone who doesn't know what to do with his wealth.

There's this quest for thrills that is ever-growing. I know one guy who just does some of the most insane s— you can imagine. Maybe it's because he's experienced so much already. He's bought everything he's wanted. He's always owned the fastest cars, the coolest planes. After a while it becomes a law of diminishing returns. There's a lack of well-being with these people. Not all of them, just particular ones.

> **I know a couple people who are at that level of obscene wealth. There's something perverse about their lives, especially when they're young.**
> Ryan Reynolds, on certain rich people

Not every rich person is terrible and bored.
Not at all! I know wealthy people who are truly wonderful. And people like Bill Gates — those guys are going to die and leave 20, 30 billion dollars to charity. That's spectacular, if you ask me.

This isn't as ostentatiously visual as the other films by Tarsem Singh, like The Fall and Immortals, but he's still a director known for his visuals. How do you deal with filmmakers like that?
It's nerve-racking, because you think going into it, are they going to be able to talk to actors? Are they going to (know) what the scene is about apart from it just looking cool? But he's the opposite for me. I found him really attentive to each scene. A movie is only as good as its director, and the sort of unfortunate truth is in this industry, it's a director's medium. The director is God on a film set. We can only succeed as far as he's willing to take us.

Self/less seems rare, not only in that it's a character-driven, ideas-driven sci-fi movie, but also that it's a one-off, not a franchise movie. I can't imagine there being a Self/less 2.
Oh God, no! But that's great, isn't it? It's refreshing that there are some films like that still. It's scary, because everything's a franchise now. It does kill off the one-off movies — the small films by Screen Gems or Focus Features. It's getting harder and harder to finance those movies. I'm worried for the future, in the sense that one day, 12 months a year it's just going to be franchise films. Even at awards season it will be franchise movies that will collect all the gold. It's a rare breed these days to have a one-off.

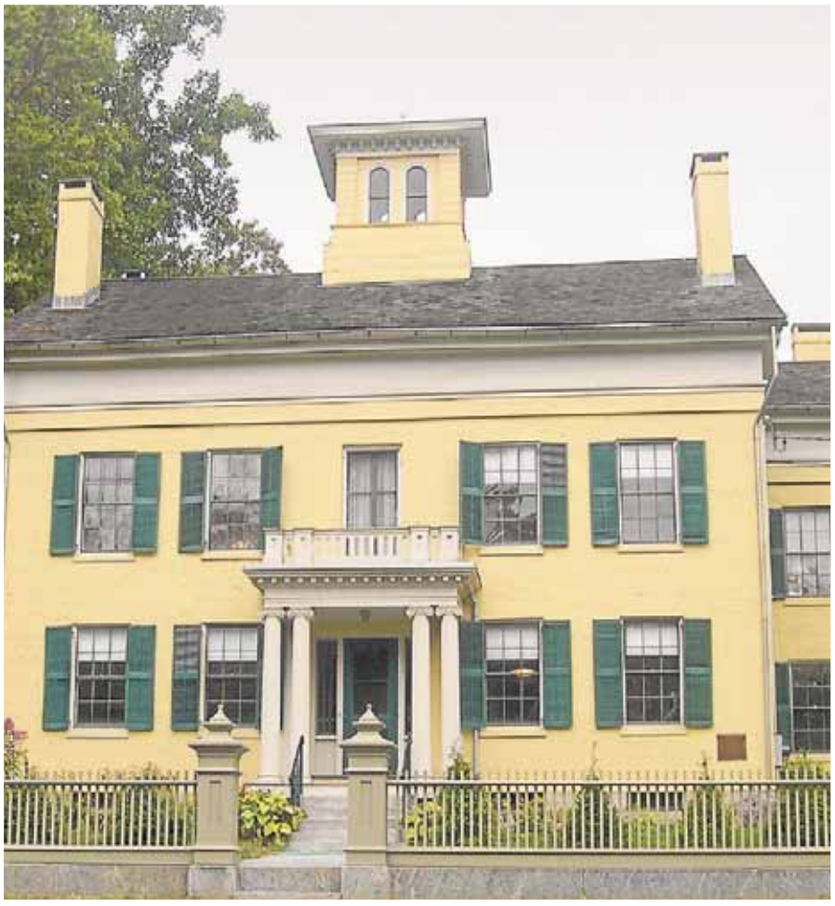
You still occasionally get to do something small, like your forthcoming gambling drama Mississippi Grind.
I always try to do those. I love those. Buried was one of those. The Voices was one of those — the smaller ones that sometimes just play at festival circuits. But to me they're everything. I love, love doing them.

Self/less is that rarest of birds: A character-driven sci-fi flick.

Private poet's life now public

Emily Dickinson was born, and lived a secluded life, in Amherst, Mass. While she rarely travelled beyond the town, her poems had global reach. Now the world comes to Amherst.

Nuala O'Connor/For Metro



MASSACHUSETTS OFFICE OF TRAVEL AND TOURISM

1 The Homestead, 280 Main St.

This yellow mansion, built by Dickinson's grandfather, was the poet's home for most of her life. She was born and died there. Now it is one half of the Emily Dickinson Museum. Visitors can enjoy a tour and stand in the light-filled bedroom where Dickinson wrote and lowered baskets of gingerbread from her window to children below. The museum has a wonderful shop for all things Emily — dolls, books, T-shirts, notecards, posters and fridge magnets.

DADEROT/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

2 The Evergreens, Main Street

This Italianate villa lies across the garden from The Homestead and is the other half of the Emily Dickinson Museum. This was the home of Dickinson's brother Austin and his wife Susan, Emily's dearest friend. This is a house of atmosphere — it retains its Victorian decor and much of Austin and Sue's paintings and furniture.

FLICKR: MELVIN MASON

4 West Cemetery, Triangle Street

The graveyard where Dickinson is buried is a tree-filled oasis off North Pleasant Street. Here you can see the Amherst History Mural with Dickinson at its heart. Here, too, is the Dickinson family plot, framed by a black wrought-iron fence, where Emily rests with her parents and sister. Brother Austin is buried at Wildwood Cemetery. Fans leave mementoes on and beside Emily's grave, including toys, flowers and handwritten notes.

MASSACHUSETTS OFFICE OF TRAVEL AND TOURISM

3 Jones Library, 43 Amity St.

The library's Emily Dickinson Room houses a large collection of Dickinson-related items, including an eclectic exhibition of Emily-related memorabilia. You can see, among other things, her original calling card, first editions of her posthumously published poetry collections, and a set of cameo buttons that belonged to the poet.

FLICKR: ROBERT GRAY

5 Amherst History Museum, 67 Amity St.

Many people are familiar with Dickinson's white dress, and this lovely museum has it on display in a glass case. The dress, known as a wrapper or house dress, is made of dimity, has handy pockets and a row of mother-of-pearl buttons. (The Emily Dickinson Museum displays a replica of the same dress.)

Nuala O'Connor is the author of historical fiction novel Miss Emily, to be published on Tuesday.

metro SPORTS
Your essential daily news

Milos Raonic is targeting the Rogers Cup as his return from a lingering foot injury

Jays can't swim with Shark

MLB

Samardzija outduels Dickey with 4-hit shutout

Jeff Samardzija kept the Chicago White Sox on a roll.

Samardzija had a four-hitter, Melky Cabrera homered and the White Sox shut out the Toronto Blue Jays 2-0.

The White Sox have won seven of nine and are starting to look like the team many thought would contend for a playoff spot this season.

"If we go out and do our job, we know what the outcome is gonna be," Samardzija said. "If we don't, and we don't have a strong last couple weeks of the month, we know what results gonna be, too.

"It's in our hands here in the clubhouse and we need to take care of it."

Samardzija (6-4) took care of things against the high-powered Toronto offence. He took a no-hitter into the sixth inning for a second straight game. It was his first complete game of the season. He struck out slugger Jose Bautista to end the two-hour, 15-minute game and threw 108 pitches.

"He's got a good, overpowering, live fastball and he's got a great slider," Blue Jays manager John Gibbons said.

"He threw the slider behind in the count and the good ones can do that. He's easily one of the most sought-after guys out there."

White Sox pitcher Jeff Samardzija reacts to throwing a complete-game shutout over the Blue Jays in Chicago on Thursday. JEFF HAYNES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THURSDAY In Chicago

WHITE SOX	BLUE JAYS
2	0

Samardzija, who has been linked to trade rumours involving the Blue Jays, has pitched at least seven innings in seven straight starts, but Thursday was the first time during that stretch he was able to get through the eighth inning. He had just one win during that span before Thursday.

"He was sharp, he was aggressive in the zone," Chicago manager Robin Ventura said. "His competitiveness is always there. That's probably the biggest thing that sticks out when you watch him pitch, emotionally and everything else."

Toronto's R.A. Dickey (3-10) allowed two runs and four hits in seven innings.

Ryan Goins singled to right field with one out in the sixth inning to end Samardzija's no-hit bid.

BACK AT EVEN

The Blue Jays (44-44) dropped to .500 for the first time since June 9 when Toronto was 30-30.

Goins was later stranded at third base when all-star Josh Donaldson ground into an inning-ending double play.

The White Sox took the lead in the bottom of the sixth. Adam Eaton led off with a triple and later scored on a passed ball as catcher Russell Martin missed Dickey's knuckleball.

Cabrera then made it 2-0 with a solo shot into the right-field bullpen.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB IN BRIEF

Ventura helps Royals cap four-game sweep of Rays

Lorenzo Cain and Salvador Perez hit two-run homers, Yordano Ventura went five innings in his return from the disabled list, and the Kansas City Royals beat the Tampa Bay Rays 8-3 on Thursday to finish off a four-game sweep.

Ventura (4-6) allowed three runs and four hits and three walks, striking out four. It was his first start since June 12, when an elbow condition began causing numbness in his hand.

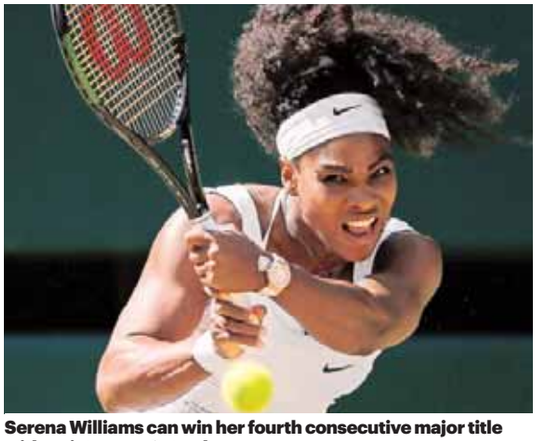
The Royals scored at least seven runs in every game of their first four-game sweep since September 2008, against Seattle. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tanaka pitches Yanks past A's, Gardner named all-star

Masahiro Tanaka allowed two hits over 7-2/3 innings, Brett Gardner hit a first-inning home run and learned midgame he had been picked for his first all-star team, and the New York Yankees rallied past the Oakland Athletics 6-2 Thursday.

Tanaka (5-3) ended a four-start winless streak, the longest drought of his 1-1/2-year major league career. He set season highs for innings and pitches (114), striking out six and walking one. One of the runs off him was unearned.

Gardner had his seventh three-hit game this season. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Serena Williams can win her fourth consecutive major title with a victory on Saturday. ADRIAN DENNIS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

WIMBLEDON

Serena easily dispatches Sharapova

Her game in high gear, history in the offing, Serena Williams is perfectly content to let everyone else talk about what a victory in the Wimbledon final would mean.

A "Serena Slam" of four consecutive major titles. The third leg of a calendar-year Grand Slam. A 21st major singles trophy, one short of the Open-era record.

For now, the No. 1-seeded Williams is keeping her thoughts to herself, declaring she won't entertain questions about those topics, even after easily dismissing No. 4 Maria Sharapova 6-2, 6-4 in the semifinals at the All England Club on Thursday to close in on the milestones.

"I don't want the pressure of that, and I'm not thinking of that. When you talk about it every time, you can't help but think about it," Williams said. "It's been OK just to free my brain from that."

29

The number of winners Williams had against Sharapova, who managed just nine.

Whatever works. Clearly, Williams is doing plenty right at the moment. Particularly against Sharapova, whom she's beaten 17 times in a row.

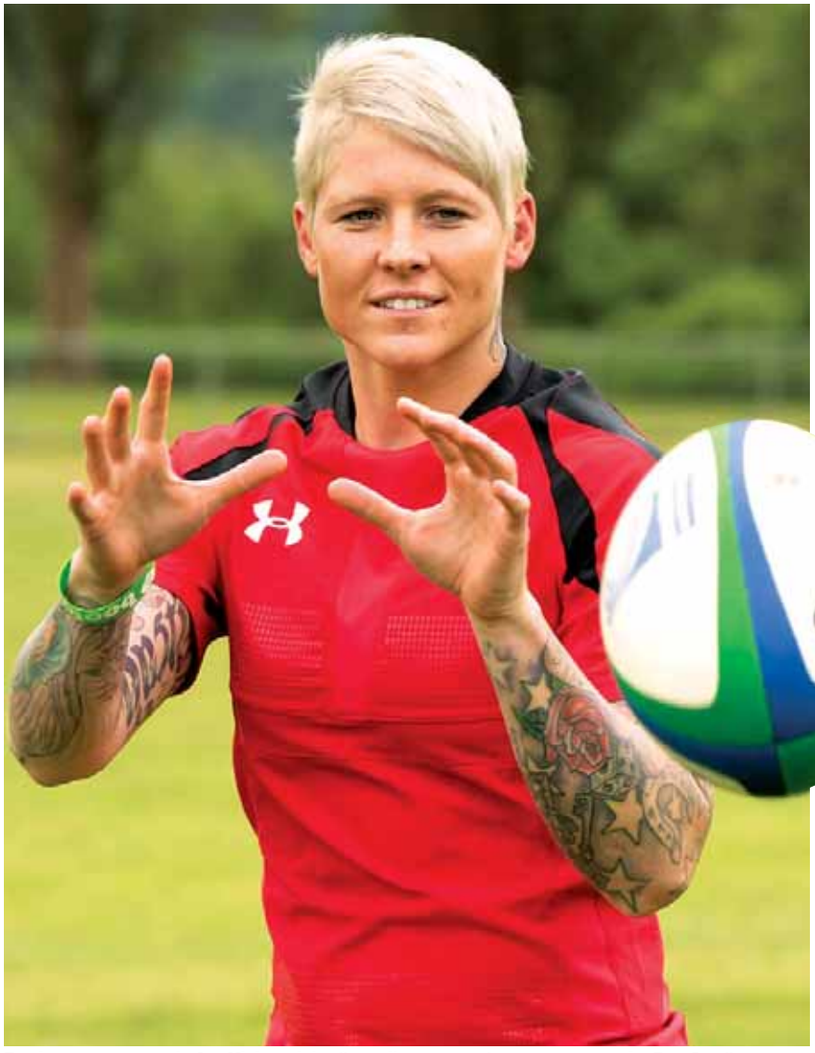
Williams hit 13 aces, reaching 123 m.p.h. Fewer than half her serves were put in play. She never faced a break point, and was pushed to deuce just once on her serve.

In sum, Williams made Sharapova look like some sort of middle-of-the-pack wannabe, rather than the five-time major champion, career Grand Slam owner and former No. 1 that she is.

"Nothing to do with Sharapova," said Williams' coach, Patrick Mouratoglou. "She does this to most of the top 10 players. It's true. She's dominating the game for a long time."

On Saturday, with so much at stake, Williams will face No. 20 Garbine Muguruza of Spain, who advanced to her first Grand Slam final by eliminating No. 13 Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland 6-2, 3-6, 6-3. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rugby sevens looking to spark Canadian passion



Rugby sevens captain Jen Kish and the Canadian women's team open up the Pan Am Games tournament against Colombia on Saturday in Toronto. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

PAN AM GAMES

Women's team hope to follow in footsteps of soccer success

Canadian rugby captain Jen Kish, as most athletes in Toronto do, wants to leave the Pan Am Games with a gold medal around her neck. But her entire rugby sevens team also wants to win something far less tangible while they're in Toronto: The support of a nation.

That's what the women's soccer team won at the London Olympics, along with its bronze medal, and, as a consequence, played to packed crowds on home soil at the Women's World Cup.

"To see how the women's soccer team has bloomed from medalling in the last Olympics, it's amazing and we're very envious of that. We always say to each other, 'That's going to be us one day,'" Kish said.

"As rugby continues to build in Canada and people start to learn rugby and get excited about it come Rio, where we have a good potential of medalling, I think the same thing will happen."

This is the debut of women's rugby in any multi-sport Games and, for many Canadians, the first taste of what they could see during the 2016 Rio Olympic tournament. Canada's women have already qualified to play there.

But the very thing that made the sevens game so appealing to the International Olympic Committee — the speed of the game and its short tournaments — doesn't give players much time to develop new fans.

> **These girls have lots of swagger and it's justified.**
> Canada rugby sevens head coach John Tait

In the Women's World Cup, the Canadians played five soccer matches over three weeks. This weekend at the Pan Am Games, Canada's rugby players will hit the pitch for that many matches in just two days. Then, if all goes well, their sixth match will be Sunday night for the gold medal.

The men's two-day sevens tournament runs alongside the women's matches at Exhibition Stadium.

"It's bang for your buck," Kish said of their speedy and action-pack-filled tournament days.

"If you have a short attention span, it's a great sport for you."

Each game is 14 minutes long except for the gold-medal round, when exhausted players are "rewarded" with a 20-minute game.

Every minute is action-packed — tackle, pass, sprint, repeat — and, with each converted try worth seven points, the lead often trades back and forth.

It's a fast and unpredictable game.

That's what Rugby Canada hopes the nation will fall in love with.

"It's a fast, exciting game; seven people are covering the pitch and that requires a lot of hard work at a fast pace," Canadian player Ghislaine Landry said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

WHAT TO WATCH

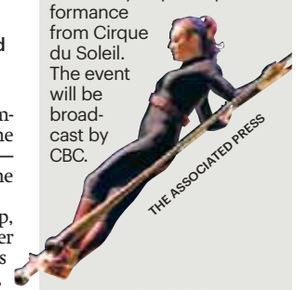
Games take Toronto area

The wait is over.

After years of planning, months of preparation and countless hours of volunteer work, the 2015 Pan Am Games have landed in Toronto.

FRIDAY

The opening ceremony starts Friday at 8 p.m. at the Rogers Centre. A capacity crowd of 45,000 will be wowed by a special performance from Cirque du Soleil. The event will be broadcast by CBC.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SATURDAY

The Games' starting pistol sounds off Saturday at 9 a.m., with the first medals being awarded in women's 400-metre canoeing. Canada's golden paddler, Adam van Koeverden, will also be hitting the water for the men's kayak sprint.

Adam van Koeverden GETTY IMAGES

Canada's men's rugby team starts its gold medal defence Saturday at noon, squaring off against Guyana.

SUNDAY

Sunday's marquee is undoubtedly men's soccer, with the Canadian team facing stiff competition from Brazil in Hamilton. The game kicks off at 8:35 p.m.

LUKE SIMCOE/METRO

OPEN-WATER SWIMMING

Pedal to the metal for Weinberger

After yet another marathon training session in his home pool in Vanvcouver, Richard Weinberger slips on an Amon Amarth T-shirt and gets ready to chat.

Olympic medallist, open-water swimmer and Swedish melodic death metal band come together in one sleek surfer dude package.

"I went to the concert with my sister," Weinberger said enthusiastically. "It was pretty awesome."

Viking metal — Amon Amarth comes from the Sindarin name of Mount Doom in The Lord of the Rings — has not always been the music of choice before competition for the mellow 25-year-old. Trance or progressive house used to be his pre-race soundtrack. "Recently I'm into more of a darker metal phase," he explained. "I bounce back and forth."

7

Weinberger is one of seven Canadian defending individual Pan Am champions at the Games.

Weinberger may be cueing up Amon Amarth on Sunday as he looks to defend his Pan American Games title.

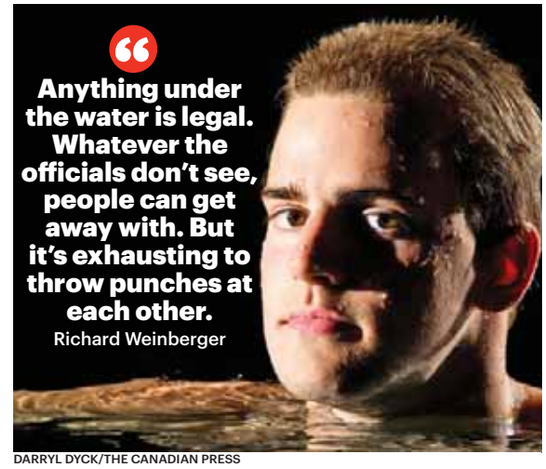
Weinberger, who won Olympic bronze in 2012, and his fellow open-water swimmers will race six 1.67-kilometre laps at the Ontario Place west channel. Swimming 10 kilometres in open water might seem like a watery Mount Doom for most. But Weinberger embraces his gruelling discipline. He likes the strategy of the race and just likes to challenge himself.

"It's pretty brutal but you're normally caught up in the race. You have a lot of distractions."

Weinberger says there are mental highs and lows in every race, which are balanced by the hours of training. Then there are the other swimmers. Open-water racing can be a contact sport.

"Anything under the water is legal," he said. "Whatever the officials don't see, people can get away with. But generally you're working on efficiency and strategy. It's very exhausting to throw punches at each other."

THE CANADIAN PRESS


Anything under the water is legal. Whatever the officials don't see, people can get away with. But it's exhausting to throw punches at each other.
Richard Weinberger

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

New Raptor Cory Joseph DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

RAPTORS

Family stressed in pitch to new signees

The Toronto Raptors introduced two new members of their family Thursday with a third on the way.

Forward Demarre Carroll and Canadian guard Cory Joseph were introduced as Toronto's newest free-agent signings, with forward Luis Scola expected to join them shortly. Carroll and Joseph both pointed to the importance of family and home in the Raptors' sales pitch.

"They included my family. Whenever you include someone's family, that's real," said Carroll. "I didn't only have the negotiations with myself, but also with my family. I felt like that was a big part of it. I'm happy to be a part of the Toronto Raptors family."

Joseph, 23, of Pickering, Ont., grew up a Raptors fan and will play for his hometown team.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Yellow jersey cyclist Martin withdraws from tour

The yellow jersey seems to be an unlucky charm at this Tour de France.

Tony Martin started Thursday's sixth stage in the lead and ended it in the hospital after breaking his collarbone in a crash that he caused near the finish line. He became the second race leader to pull out of the race, after Fabian Cancellara fractured two vertebrae in his lower back on Monday.

Zdenek Stybar won the stage. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pospisil withdraws from Canada's Davis Cup tie

Canada won't have its top two singles players for its Davis Cup tie against Belgium. Tennis Canada announced Thursday that Vancouver's Vasek Pospisil won't play in the Davis Cup match because of a severe bone bruise to his right wrist.

Canada will also be without its top singles player, hard-serving Milos Raonic of Thornhill, Ont., who is recovering from the lingering effects of foot surgery.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cavs give LeBron one-year $23m deal

NBA

Cleveland ramp up for another crack at title

There was no need for a heartfelt letter this summer. LeBron James isn't going anywhere. This decision was easy.

Just shy of the one-year anniversary of his celebrated homecoming, James agreed to terms on a two-year, $47-million contract for next season, two people familiar with the negotiations told the Associated Press on Thursday.

The deal includes a $24-million player option for 2016-17, said the people who spoke on condition of anonymity because James has not yet signed the contract. That will be done soon enough as the four-time MVP has a busy schedule over the next few weeks to promote a new comedy film in which he portrays himself.

35.8

James' points-per-game average in the recent NBA Finals

Unlike last July 11, when his essay in Sports Illustrated touched Cleveland fans and changed the NBA's landscape, James wasn't the star attraction during this summer's free agency period. DeAndre Jordan and others took care of all the drama as James went on vacation in the Bahamas with close friends Dwyane Wade, Chris Paul and Carmelo Anthony.

James ended any suspense or speculation about his future with Cleveland by saying several times during the past season that he intends to end his career with the Cavs. This is the first time since 2006 that James will re-sign with a team. On two previous occasions as a free agent he left for another team, signing with Miami in 2010 and Cleveland in 2014.

It had been expected that James would wait to see if forward Tristan Thompson, who is also represented by his agent, Rich Paul, would sign before he negotiated with the Cavs. But on the first day teams could sign players, James made his intentions known to the Cavs, who in one season went from a lottery team to Eastern Conference champions with James.

With more experienced players and perhaps a few new ones, there's no reason why the Cavs won't be in the title chase again. James' skills have shown no signs of erosion, and owner Dan Gilbert has shown a willingness to shell out major money to keep his biggest star surrounded with quality players.

The 30-year-old James led the Cavs to the NBA Finals in his first season back. Cleveland lost in six games to Golden State, but through no fault of James.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Cavaliers have come to terms on new contracts with both LeBron James, left, and Kevin Love. MIKE LAWRIE/GETTY IMAGES

LOVE CONVINCED TO STAY

Kevin Love's poolside chat with LeBron James persuaded him to jump back in with the Cavaliers.

Love, who announced last week that he will stay in Cleveland, said Thursday that he and James had a "very honest" talk before free agency opened and the discussion led him to re-signing with the Cavs, a team he hopes to help win an NBA championship.

"We just talked everything out and a lot of stuff was very honest and we came to a really good place." Love will reportedly get a five-year, $113.2 million contract.

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RECIPE Chicken in Wild Mushroom Sauce

EAT LIGHT AT HOME

Rose Reisman
rosereisman.com
@rosereisman

Ready in
Prep time: 10
Cook time: 16
Serves 4

Ingredients
- 4 Tbsp all-purpose flour
- 2 Tbsp grated Parmesan cheese
- Salt and pepper
- 1 1/2 lb boneless chicken breast, pounded
- 4 tsp vegetable oil, divided
- 3 cups sliced oyster mushrooms (approx. 8 oz)
- 2 tsp minced garlic
- 1/3 cup white wine
- 2/3 cup chicken stock
- 2/3 cup 2% evaporated milk
- 1 tsp mustard
- 1/4 cup chopped parsley

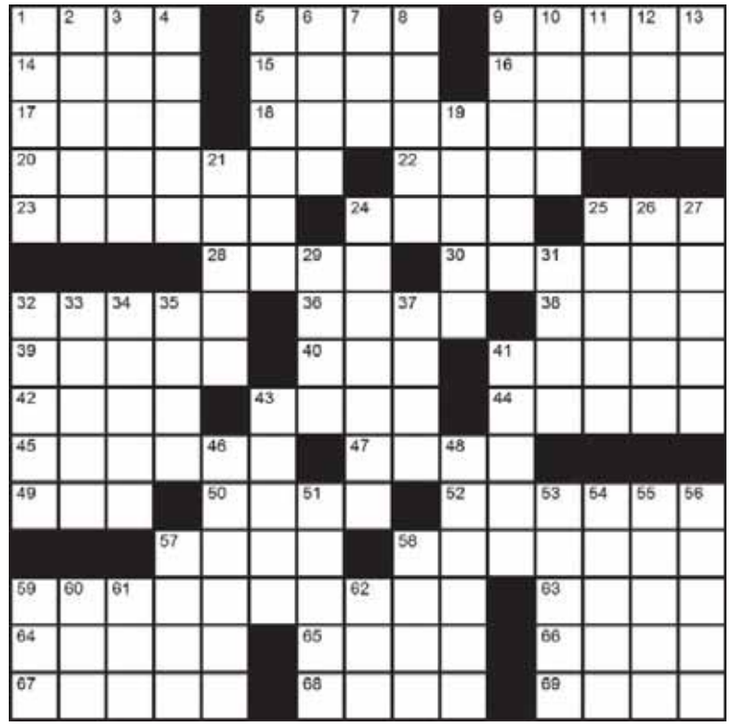
Directions
1. Combine flour, cheese, salt and pepper on plate. Coat chicken on both sides.
2. In a large skillet, add 2 tsp oil and sauté chicken for four minutes, turning once. Remove and set aside. Add remaining 2 tsp oil and sauté mushrooms for five minutes just until cooked and no moisture is left. Add garlic and sauté one minute.
3. Add wine to mushrooms and sauté for one minute or until almost evaporated.
4. In a bowl, combine stock, milk, mustard and flour until combined. Add to skillet with mushrooms, add chicken, cover and simmer on lowest heat for five minutes, turning once or until sauce is slightly thickened. Do not cook on higher heat or milk will curdle. Garnish with parsley.

Nutrition per serving
- Calories 370
- Protein 43.5 g
- Total fat 11.4 g

PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Relaxed running pace
5. 'Hypn' suffix
9. '80s rockabilly hit: "__ Cat Strut"
14. Reykjavik is its cap.
15. Katy Perry hit
16. Angered
17. Gotchas!
18. 2015: Every-four-years sporting event that's in Toronto this summer: 3 wds.
20. Hoped-for candidate on a matchmaker's list: 2 wds.
22. Goofball
23. Singer/actress Ms. Gomez
24. Ancient queen of Greek mythology
25. Key above Caps Lock
28. Grimm opener...
30. Light up, in verse
32. Montreal __ (Where the Canadiens once played)
36. Nameless [abbr.]
38. "Ah, me."
39. Picture
40. Glamorous getaway
41. Life sign
42. Man on the Moon
43. Convene
44. That is, in Latin: 2 wds.
45. Fire up
47. Blue-green
49. Enunciate
50. Mr. Estrada
52. Understated
57. Slumps
58. Headache pill
59. Magical password!: 2 wds.
63. Three-__ sloth
64. "Dawson's Creek" actress Ms. Holmes
65. Stratford-__-Avon
66. "No Particular Place __ __" by Chuck Berry
67. Conform
68. Formerly, fancily
69. Disgorge

DOWN
1. Mr. Hemsworth's
2. Earth tone
3. "__ Harbor" (2001)
4. Vintage dairy products cow
5. "__ Black" (TV show starring Canadian actress Tatiana Maslany)
6. Perfectly: 2 wds. + letter
7. Mr. Fleming, James Bond creator
8. Pet rocks, for one
9. Indicate
10. Cafeteria carrier
11. Clash
12. Lunched
13. "Okay."
19. Comedian/actor Cheech
21. Pointed-hat garden ornament
24. Nag
25. Tutu textile
26. Accumulate
27. Hassle
29. Pillow's packaging
31. Glorify
32. Done, in Montreal
33. __-3 fatty acids
34. Forecast on an in-need-of-umbrella day
35. Kind of citrus fruit
37. Like Cheerios
41. WWII-era model
43. Unify in the corporate world
46. Silverware service: 2 wds.
48. Acquiesce
51. Debated dispute
53. Ship's mooring posts
54. Soldiers group
55. Vassal
56. Fund
57. Trim
58. Tunestress Tori
59. Quebec-made cheese
60. Launch site
61. Helios' 'H'
62. Calendar abbr.

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Your feelings for a certain individual will reach a peak. However, the planets warn that this may not be the best time to reveal your true intentions — keep them secret just a little while longer.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Saturn urges you to face up to problems in your most important relationships. You need to bring resentments into the open where they can be dealt with once and for all.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You must take care of duties and responsibilities that should have been taken care of long ago. You've put them off long enough — now it's time to knuckle down.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
The planets warn you need to be careful who you let into the secrets of your heart. It could be you have a rival for the object of your affections. Don't let them know how you feel.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
What happens today will touch you deeply and magnify your feelings — you may not be able to control yourself. If you lose your cool you must make amends as soon as possible.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Don't let anyone tell you what you should and should not be doing. Cosmic activity urges you to have a good time socially whether or not loved ones or authority figures approve.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
No matter how hungry you are for fame and fortune you must not cut corners or take liberties. If you want success to last you must make sure it has strong foundations.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
If a friend or work colleague proposes that you do something different over the next few days don't dismiss the idea out of hand. You may be a creature of habit but sometimes it is good to go off at a tangent.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
The planets suggest you will be somewhat unyielding today. Be warned, however, that if it comes down to a battle of wills you are likely to be the long-term loser.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You have many great ideas but before you start working on any of them it might be wise to seek the opinions of people you trust. There may be something small but important that you have missed.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You may be tempted to lay down the law with someone who did a poor job or let you down, but is that really the best approach? Find out why they failed. Maybe they need help.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Cosmic activity makes you both dynamic and relaxed about life and with a combination like that you are sure to succeed.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

6		8				7		1
			5		3			
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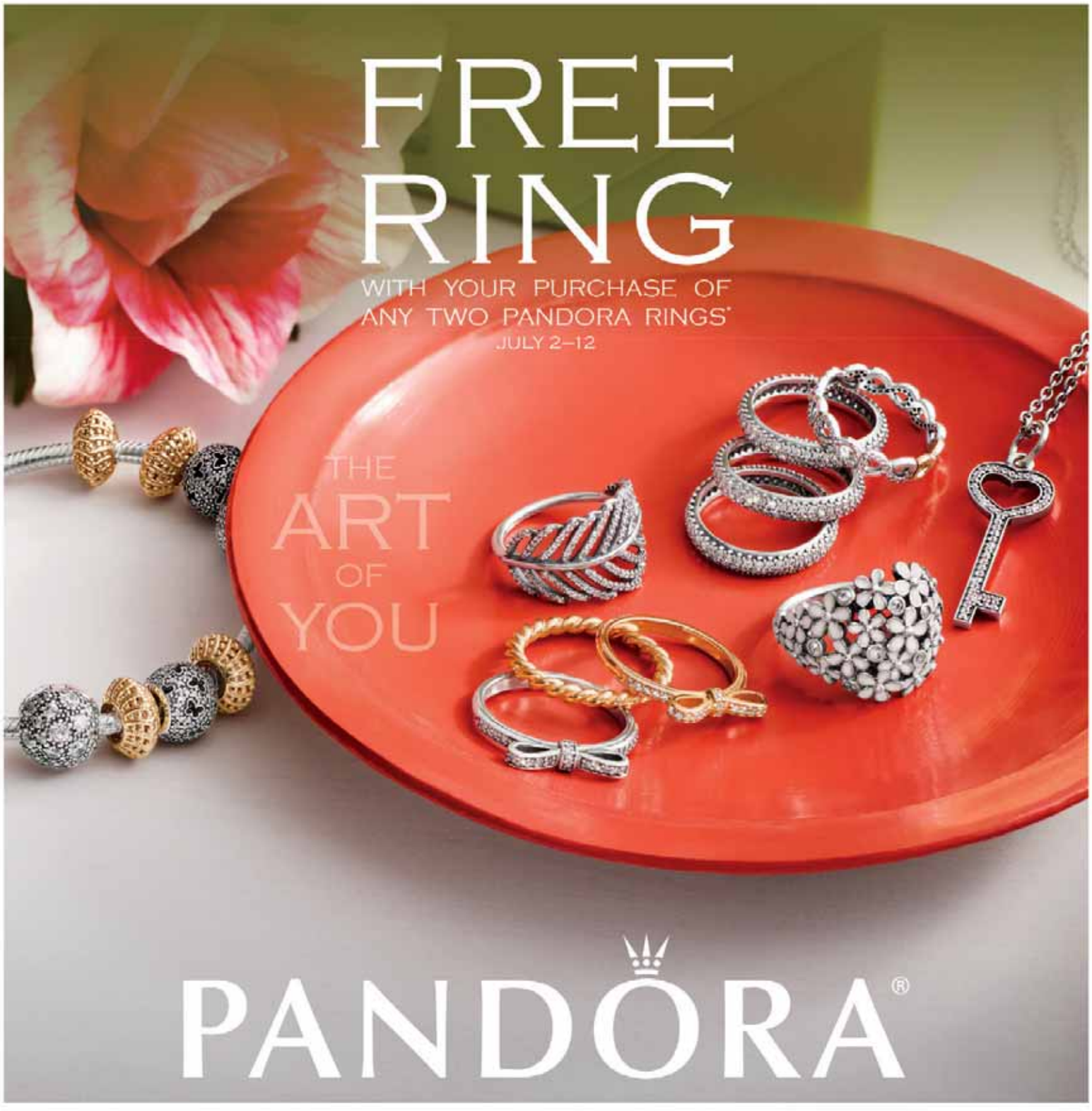

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